

Researching Contemporary Cosmologies (AHAN7035)

Module Aims

1. To introduce students to the principles of qualitative research.
2. To explore the use and relevance of particular methods, chiefly questionnaire and interview.
3. To investigate theoretical principles in qualitative research, especially phenomenology, reflexivity and the insider-outsider question.
4. To examine existing research within the subject area.

Module Outcomes

By the end of this module successful students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the cultural context of contemporary astronomical, astrological or cosmological belief.
2. Apply the techniques and methodologies of qualitative research to gather and critically interpret research findings in the subject area in the light of the existing scholarly literature and relevant theory and method.
3. Demonstrate a systematic understanding and a critical awareness of issues at the forefront of the principles of ethnographic and qualitative research.
4. Display strategies for dealing with incomplete data and contested knowledge and attitudes, and propose original hypotheses on the basis of research findings.
5. Consider and describe both their own and other people's experience and ideas with fairness and integrity, recognising their own bias and preconceived ideas and reflecting maturely on other peoples' beliefs, behaviour and opinions