



AU SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2016

INTERDISCIPLINARY ETHNOGRAPHY FIELD SCHOOL IN MAURITIUS

TEACHER: DIMITRIS XYGALATAS

INTERDISCIPLINARY ETHNOGRAPHY FIELD SCHOOL IN MAURITIUS

Get hands-on ethnographic fieldwork experience in one of the most diverse societies in the world

This course will provide training in interdisciplinary ethnography, using the field as a social laboratory. Anchored in immersive participant observation, students will be introduced to an interdisciplinary approach to ethnography which blurs the boundaries between traditional dichotomies like qualitative/quantitative, sciences/humanities, and field/lab. The course will also examine key methodological, epistemological, and ethical issues pertaining to the study of culture and working with human subjects. Furthermore, it will involve a series of field trips and lectures on Mauritius, its diverse culture, and its fascinating history.

The course takes place in Mauritius, a small tropical island nation in the Indian Ocean. Mauritius lies between places and traditions. Geographically, it belongs to Africa, although it is located 1500 miles from the continent. Historically, it has been colonized by the Dutch, French, and British, all of whom have left their marks on the local culture. And demographically, it is one of the most diverse societies in the world. Its inhabitants draw their ancestries from various places in Asia, Africa, and Europe; they speak a great variety of languages, including French, English, and the Mauritian Creole; and they

practice a multitude of religions, among which most prominent are Hinduism, Catholicism, and Islam. Such diversity makes Mauritius an ideal “social laboratory”.

This course covers:

- Designing, conducting, and reporting a field study
- Key methodological and epistemological issues pertaining to the relation between ethnographic and experimental work
- Ethical issues in working with human subjects
- A basic knowledge of Mauritian culture and history

Training will be provided in the form of lectures, workshops, fieldtrips, and hands-on empirical work.

Students are required to pay for their own travel and accommodation, but will be offered the opportunity to rent rooms in local houses at very low prices.

In addition to lowering costs, this will also help the local community and provide a unique chance to experience authentic Mauritian culture.

The course is taught by anthropologist Dimitris Xygalatas and a team of Mauritian and international lecturers.



AU Summer University welcomes Danish and international full time students, exchange students and free movers.

APPLICATION

The online application system will open on December 1, 2015.

The application deadline is March 15, 2016.

Please visit:

au.dk/summeruniversity for more information on application procedures, housing, location and the social programme.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING DANISH AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO AU SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2016.

In 2015 more than 1600 Danish and international students decided to spend part of their summer taking specialized, intensive courses at AU Summer University. More than 60 nationalities were represented.

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD SCHOOL

Date: July 4 - July 29

ECTS: 10

Level: Bachelor

TARGET GROUP

Students in all areas of humanities, social and behavioural sciences

