

# Methods of Ethnographic Research in Religion

## *Preparation, Challenges, and Possible Solutions*

Professor Gareth Fisher will give a lecture on methods of ethnographic research on the basis of his several years of fieldwork experience in Asia. In this class, we will explore some key methods and challenges in conducting research on religion and social change in contemporary China.

Although the masterclass will be based on specific case studies from China, there will also be a general discussion on ethnographic research not limited to only China, but inclusive of critical theories and concepts that are applicable to the fieldwork-related dilemmas in other regions.

**PROF. GARETH FISHER (SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, USA)**

### PREPARATORY READINGS:

Fisher, Gareth. 2008. 'The Spiritual Land Rush: Merit and Morality in New Chinese Buddhist temple Construction.' In *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 67:1, pp.143-170.

Fisher, Gareth. n.d. 'A Schizophrenic Buddhist's Uncertain Danger: Exploring a Dilemma in the Ethics of Fieldwork.' *Unpublished manuscript*.

For the readings, please contact Dr. Stefania Travagnin ([s.travagnin@rug.nl](mailto:s.travagnin@rug.nl))



university of  
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19 May 2015, 10.00-12.00  
University of Groningen,  
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies  
Oude Boteringestraat 38, Room 123