



GANESHA AND MURUGAN: INDIAN PSYCHIATRY ENCOUNTERS MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**2nd UCL - BALM Short Course
Kovalam Village, Tamil Nadu, India
3-5 November 2008**

Objectives: 1) Enable participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural validity of current theory and practice of mental health in South Asia, 2) Offer participants a critique of current mental health theory and practice 3) Conceptualise alternative frameworks for understanding mental health concerns in the region.

Target audience: Mental Health Professionals, Medical Anthropologists & other Social Scientists working or researching in mental health across cultures. The course is aimed at those who seek a broader perspective on the current official psychiatry; and wish to *theorise* alternative models of mental health in the region. Basic knowledge of social sciences as applied to mental health theory is essential. Maximum class size 35.

Course content: Topics to be covered will include: 1) Cultural Validity and Indian Psychiatry, 2) Historiography of Indian Psychiatry, 3) Cultural Construction of Western Psychiatry, 4) Culture Bound Syndromes, 5) Idioms of Distress, 6) Spirits, Possession & Trance, 7) Stigma, Caste & Cultural identity, 8) Somatisation, 9) Anthropology of Trauma, 10) Social dimensions of psychiatric medications, 12) Emerging psychopathology in South Asia, & 13) Alternatives to existing models of mental health care. Essential reading material will be circulated in advance.

Outcome: An enhanced understanding of how medical anthropology could inform theoretical and applied issues on mental health in South Asia. A UCL - BALM certificate of participation will be issued to the trainees.

Dates & Venue: 3 November – 5 November 2008 at the BALM campus, Kovalam Village, Tamil Nadu State, India.

Course Fees: Indian Citizens and those from low income countries: INR (Indian Rupees) 4500.00 Rest: GBP (Sterling pounds) 200.00. *Fees do not include accommodation, travel to venue and meals.*

Teaching Faculty: Clinical Academic Psychiatrists and Medical Anthropologists from University College London (UCL); & Trainers from BALM (Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health), Chennai. *Course faculty include: Sushut Jadhav (Course Director), Jane Derges, Sumeet Jain, Roland Littlewood, Madhuri Menon, Madhu Sharan, Mohan Ramamoorthy, & Chaitali Shetty (Course Co-ordinator).*

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