



ഭാരതീയ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യാ സ്ഥാപനം പാലക്കാട്
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान पालक्काड
Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad
Nurturing Minds For a Better World



Culture and Health: Ethnographic Perspectives and Methods



8th to 20th July 2025



Sahyadri Campus, Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad (IITPKD), Kanjikode,
Palakkad, Kerala-678623

This course is intended for researchers examining (mental) health, animal health, public health and forms of healing in their social and cultural contexts which can profoundly shape conceptions of illness and illness outcomes. Particular readings will demonstrate certain positive features of India's capacity to cope with mental illness which ideally should not be compromised as the country's mental health treatment policies respond to the Movement for Global Mental Health. The course provides ethnographic case studies from different parts of the world which students will examine in relation to cases from India and other parts of South Asia. A section of the class will focus on mental health which is especially shaped by its cultural milieu, and the readings will consider studies of how the treatment of mental illness in India is affected by the International Movement for Global Mental Health. In addition, Prof. Halliburton will share his experience conducting fieldwork in India and the United States in an effort to help students become aware of the variety of methods available for studying culture and health.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

- 1) Understand the degree to which health and illness are shaped by social and cultural forces.

- 2) Develop comparative insights from reading and discussing case studies from around the world
- 3) Learn about ethnographic research methods used in anthropology and other social sciences
- 4) Assess the opportunities and challenges of mental health practices in India

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|------------------------------|--|
| LECTURES | 10 days Course: 8-20 July 2025 (Exam will be held on 20th July, Sunday) |
| REGISTRATION DEADLINE | <p>01 July 2025. Please register for the course by this date and submit your fees once you are shortlisted.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg3hI5eZH1lfh6xss4wbPjLzbEZ7E9z_Fy7_xxHV9txcLGsg/viewform?usp=header</p> |
| ATTEND IF YOU ARE | <p>Researchers and practitioners examining (mental) health, animal health and forms of healing in their social and cultural contexts or health professionals including veterinary doctors & nurses, Ph.D students & Psy.D/DM trainees in mental health disciplines (psychiatric nursing, psychiatric social work, clinical psychology and psychiatry)</p> |
| FEES | <p>The fee structure is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ph.D Research scholars from India & SAARC countries: INR 2000 ● Ph.D. Research scholars from India belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS/ PWD/ Transgender communities: INR 1000 [Note: Please send a soft copy of your community certificate to cultureandhealthiitpkd@gmail.com] ● Participants from academic and government institutes in India : INR 8000 ● Working animal health, health and mental health professionals from India : INR 10,000 ● Foreign nationals USD 250 ● There is no fee for IITPKD students <p>The above fee includes all instruction materials and access to free WIFI and IITPKD central library facilities.</p> |
| CERTIFICATE | <p>After successful completion of the course, a certificate will be issued.</p> |

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE



To express interest in attending the program, participants are requested to complete the registration link- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg3hI5eZH1lfh6xss4wbPjLzbEZ7E9z_Fy7_xxHV9txcLGsg/viewform?usp=header Once the selection process is complete, shortlisted candidates will receive a payment link via email. Please refer to the registration fee details and fill accordingly. ID card proof is required before filling the form.

Accommodation and Food

Participants can arrange their own accommodation. However, limited shared accommodation may be made available (subject to availability) in the hostels on request on a first come first serve basis.

Payment for accommodation & food is extra as per actuals.

Hotel Accomodation

[LIST OF HOTELS](#)

Find some hotels available near IIT Palakkad by clicking the link.



Prof. Murphy Halliburton teaches in the anthropology department at Queens College and the anthropology PhD program at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He specializes in medical and psychological anthropology, science and technology studies, and the anthropology of South Asia. His work involves long-term, critical engagement with biomedical psychiatric practices based on fieldwork in southern India and the United States. He has also tracked the effects of global patent policies on pharmaceutical production and biopiracy in India, and he is currently investigating peer-led alternatives to mainstream psychiatry in the northeastern United States. He is the author of *Mudpacks and Prozac: Experiencing Ayurvedic, Biomedical, and Religious Healing* (Routledge, 2009) and *India and the Patent Wars* (Cornell University Press, 2017).

Weblink: [Murphy Halliburton](#)





Dr Sudarshan R Kottai serves as an assistant professor in the department of humanities and social sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad and as a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Equity Studies, New Delhi. Trained as a clinical psychologist, his experiences learning and working at state-run mental health training institutions critically illuminate research on 'modern' mental health systems in the Global South and their 'relationship' with the wider social world. Informed by the politics, history and philosophy of psy disciplines, he examines the complexities and ambiguities of increasing metricalisation, technocratisation, globalization and scientification of mental health care. He grapples with questions of philosophical interest in mental health like why mainstream mental health academia/research/practice primarily engages in "mirroring" the world rather than in "world-making".



Weblink: [Sudarshan R Kottai](#)



About Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad (IITPKD)

Established in 2015, IITPKD is dedicated to creating an environment that enables students and faculty to engage in the pursuit of knowledge, to dream, think, and innovate thereby becoming change agents for a better world. Having begun with just 120 students in July 2015, IITPKD has since grown into an establishment that is over a thousand students strong and with the best staff in key positions. The institute recognises collective growth, in collaboration with industry and other academic institutions, as the need of the time and emphasizes blue-sky research and directed research as two essential pillars of technology development. IITPKD embraces a vision to be a leader in cross-disciplinary inquiries, and to contribute to the potential that India's demographic dividend represents for the country and the world, which is embodied in the motto of the institute "Nurturing minds for a better world" [from the official website].



Weblink: <https://iitpkd.ac.in/>

Course Coordinator

Dr Sudarshan R Kottai

Assistant Professor

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad, Kanjikkode

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For any course related queries please write to cultureandhealthiitpkd@gmail.com or call 9074329805 (Nazmia Ebrahim)

Image and content description of the brochure

The brochure is set in white background, with prominent text and headings in dark green and all other texts in black colour. The cover image of the brochure represents the theme of culture and health with the title prominently displayed: "Culture and Health: Ethnographic Perspectives and Methods." At the center of the image, a globe symbolizes global perspectives, with two health professionals—one standing and one seated—engaged in discussion. Surrounding the globe are vibrant and diverse cultural elements, including: traditional masks and temples represent South Asian cultural heritage and the imageries of stethoscopes, the caduceus symbol, and graphs signify health and research. A lotus flower, maps, and artistic patterns blend tradition and modernity. A combination of vehicles, architecture, and people, highlight diverse settings where health and culture intersect. The image uses bright, warm colors to depict inclusivity and connection between cultural traditions and modern health practices.

Beneath the cover image, logos of GIAN, IIT Palakkad and Ministry of Education are displayed in a horizontal row. The title "*Culture and Health: Ethnographic Perspectives and Methods*" is written in bold green positioned at the center of the page. Below the title, the event details, viz., date and venue of the course (*8th to 20th July 2025, Sahyadri Campus, Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad, Kanjikode, Palakkad, Kerala-678623*) are written in regular black .

Content Layout

Page 1 displays the introduction section written in bold, green text, followed by four course objectives in a numbered list.

The section is followed by a table containing details of the course, the text in black with green background which displays dates and deadlines such as "*10-day course: 8-20 July 2025 (Exam on 20th July, Sunday). Registration Deadline: "1st June 2025."*". Hyperlink for registration form along with QR code is also provided in the table.

Registration link



[-https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg3hI5eZH1lfh6xss4wbPjLzbEZ7E9z_Fy7_xxHV9txcLGsg/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScg3hI5eZH1lfh6xss4wbPjLzbEZ7E9z_Fy7_xxHV9txcLGsg/viewform?usp=header)

Fee structure is organized into columns for participant category and corresponding fees.

The fee structure is as follows:

- Ph.D Research scholars from India & SAARC countries: INR 2000
- Ph.D. Research scholars from India (SC/ST/OBC/EWS/ PWD/ Transgender community): INR 1000 (Note: Please send a soft copy of your community certificate to cultureandhealthiitpkd@gmail.com)
- Participants from academic and government institutes in India : INR 8000
- Working animal health, health and mental health professionals from India : INR 10,000
- Foreign nationals USD 250
- There is no fee for IITPKD students

The above fee includes all Instruction Materials and access to free WIFI and IITPKD central library facilities.

A link to the list of hotels is also provided along with food and accommodation details.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LzEYpM-t657BWAyw5tL_277IrTmC5pmusqsfep2rQ0A/edit?usp=sharing

Faculty profiles are displayed in the table below, which is similar to the preceding table in format. The left side cell includes a photo of Prof. Murphy Halliburton and his detailed profile is given in the right cell of the row. The weblink to the profile along with QR code is given below.



Weblink: [Murphy Halliburton](#)

The next row showcases a photo of Dr. Sudarshan R. Kottai aligned to the left and Profile Text highlighting his work. The web link to the profile along with QR code is given below.



Weblink: [Sudarshan R Kottai](#)

The next row has IIT Palakkad written in regular font, justified alignment which includes the institute's vision and growth since its inception in 2015 and its motto: "*Nurturing Minds for a Better World.*". With a collage of institute pictures on the left cell, the institute website link and QR code is also provided in the table.



Weblink: <https://iitpkd.ac.in/>

The back page contains contact details in a dark green background with text displayed in white. The details include Course Coordinator details along with contact information.

Course Coordinator

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