

Review of: "Is Fieldwork losing its grace? Encountering Western and Indian Experience"

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This is an interesting paper that raises a number of interesting issues related to fieldwork in anthropology. It would be nice if the paper included more background on fieldwork among Indian anthropologists. From the title, people will likely expect to learn about Indian anthropology, but the overwhelming majority of the discussion is about western experiences and theorists. There are several vignettes about fieldwork in India, but there isn't a discussion of major Indian anthropologists and how their (approach to) fieldwork has had an impact on the field. There is also little discussion of differences in Western/Indian approaches to fieldwork. The description of fieldwork in India lasting 10-12 days is quite different from US anthropologists who do fieldwork for at least a year. It would be helpful to know more about how the differences in these approaches impacts results. The section on Malinowskian tragedy doesn't explain what the reference to Malinowski means. This section needs to be expanded to make it clear what the author is hoping to convey. Finally, it would be good to have some discussion of the 'postmodern crisis' approach to anthropology from scholars like James Clifford arguing that fieldwork can never be objective and the introduction of 'autoethnographic' approaches to fieldwork.