

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I think this is an interesting paper and discussion. It does not bother me that many of the references are to publications of earlier decades, because this is necessary for a historical review of attitudes and changing responses and concepts. I think that was a strength of the article.

I do not know if there have been any more recent discussions, debates or articles on this issue. I think the author should at least address that question.

I think the author could discuss more the writing culture debates of the 1970's and 1980's, and the whole issue of whether or not the origins of anthropology in colonialism can be outgrown. After all, universities are ideological institutions, aren't they? Where do they get their funding from and what is the motivation behind this desire to collect data about other people's lives? Is it merely innocent curiosity?

There is a power dynamic still, in that many anthropologists are funded by wealthy and powerful institutions, and the writing is often done as much for the PhD supervisors and motivated by the desire for promotion and a career as for 'truth'.

The issue is one of representation and who has the right to represent who? There is also the interesting issue that the author does discuss, which is whether any representation can be anything other than a very relativised viewpoint of one person who is often not even fully fluent in the language.

If the author could consider some of these questions a bit more I would say it's an interesting discussion.