

## **Not My Skeletons: Towards a Heterogeneous Conceptualisation of “The Privileged Western Researcher”**

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**Speaker:** **Dr Mark Griffiths**  
University of Oulu

**Chair:** Dr Sin Harnng Luh, Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday, 6 November 2015, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

**Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

### Abstract

In this paper I work towards a heterogeneous conceptualisation of the western researcher. Through an account of my research in Southern India I illustrate the ways that ethnographic encounters were permeated by intense discomfort. This was brought about by a very narrow conceptualisation of “our” privilege “postcolonial” research settings.

I use this example in the field to make the case for a more careful theorisation of the positionality of the “western researcher” whose heterogeneity is overlooked in current literatures. Throughout, I draw on a narrative version of my example of unethical research, with which the paper begins.

### About the Speaker

**Mark Griffiths** is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oulu, Finland and holds a PhD from King’s College London in Public Policy Studies. His teaching and research focus on global civil society, citizenship and volunteering for development.

Within these foci, Mark has published on embodied experience as both an important aspect of governance and a potential site of resistance or transcendence. Current work includes an edited volume of reflections on positionality in the “Global South”.



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