

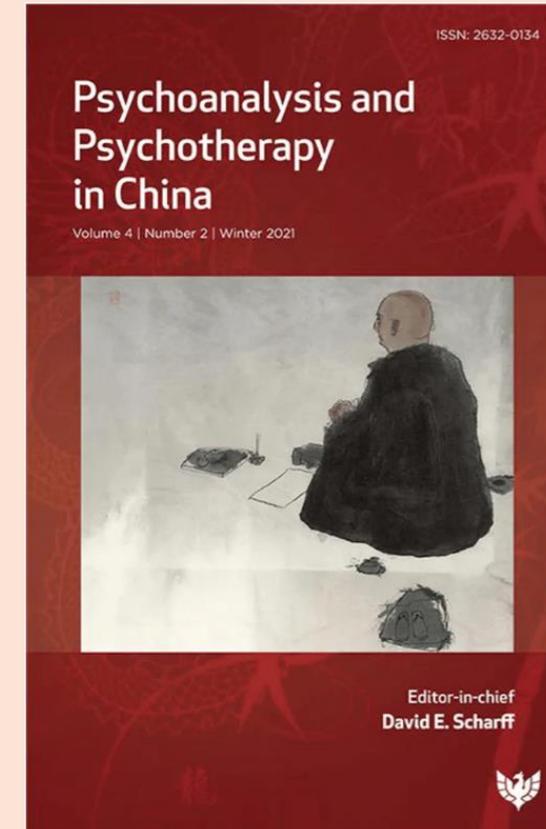
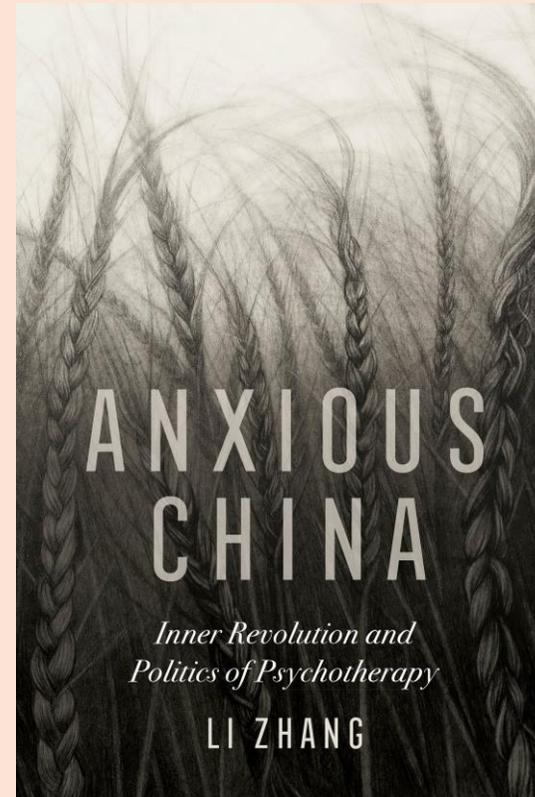
Embodied Minds

Culture, Politics, and Psychotherapy

Gareth Breen

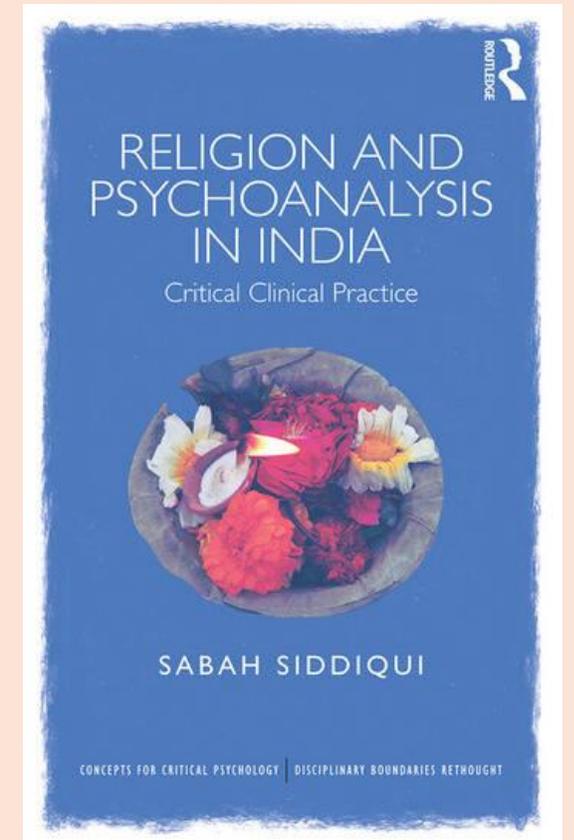
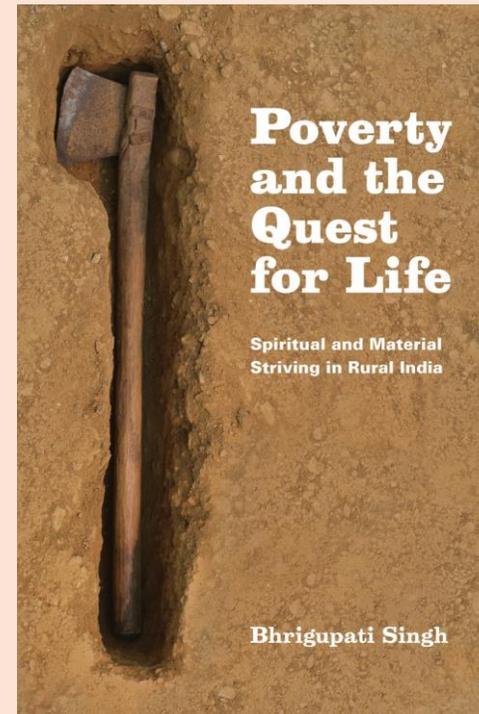
Embodied Minds: Overview

This course will trace the differences and divergences between anthropology and psychotherapy as modes of human encounter and understanding, and as developing disciplines over the past century or so.

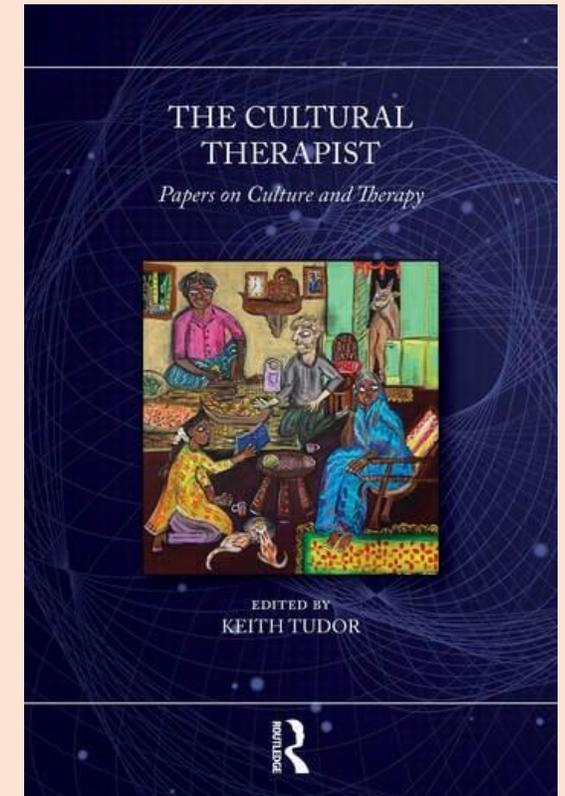
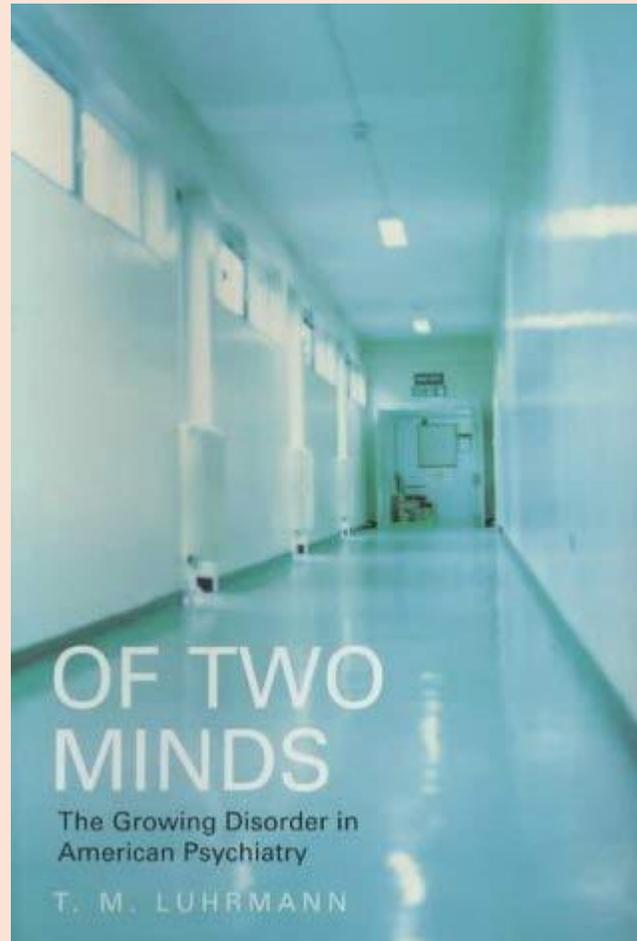


It will explore the different contexts in which anthropology and psychotherapy are done and how they have influenced one another.

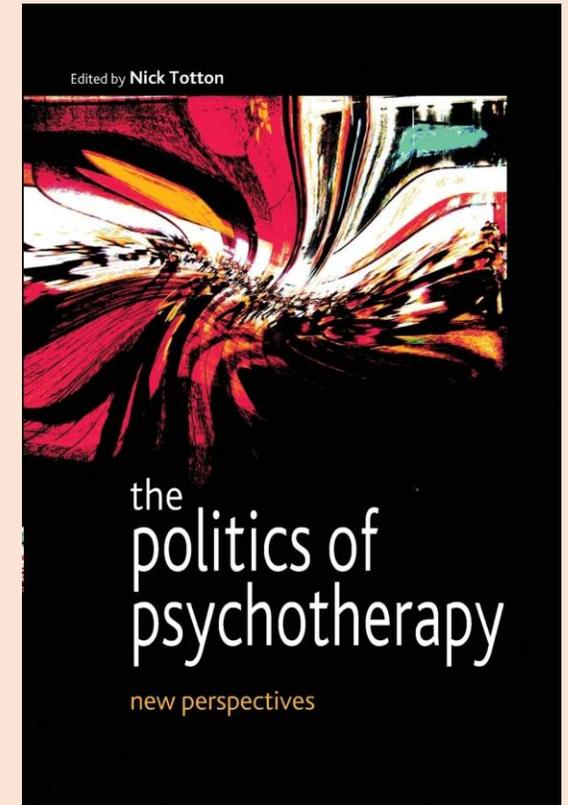
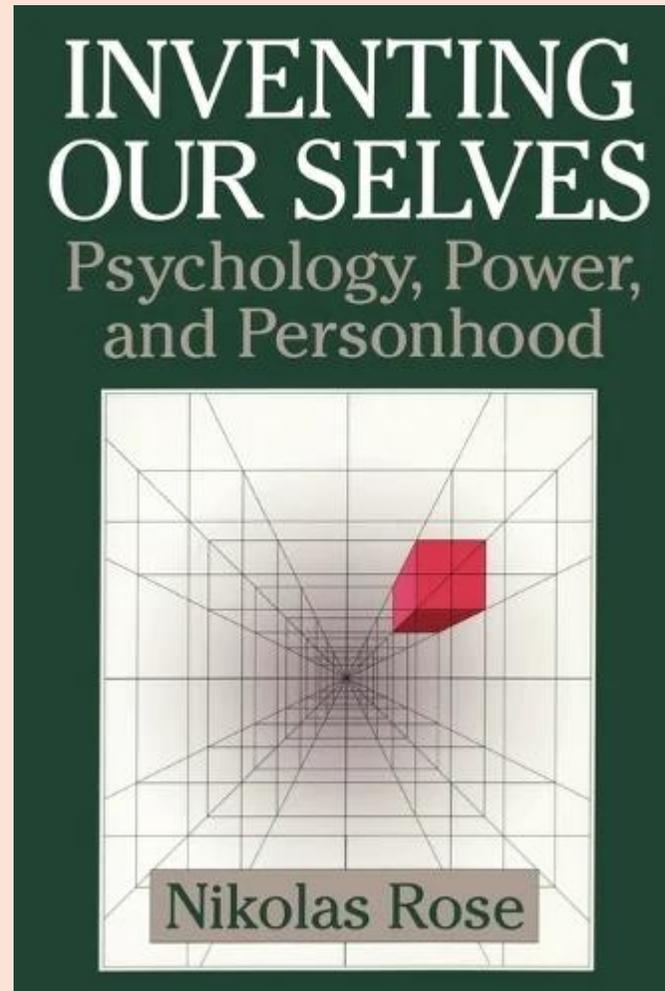
We will investigate how psychotherapeutic theories and practices have changed and been challenged as they travel from one context to another.



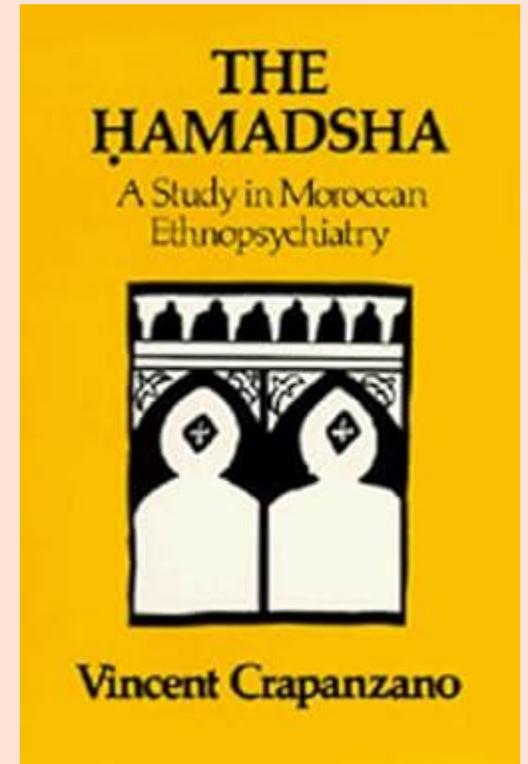
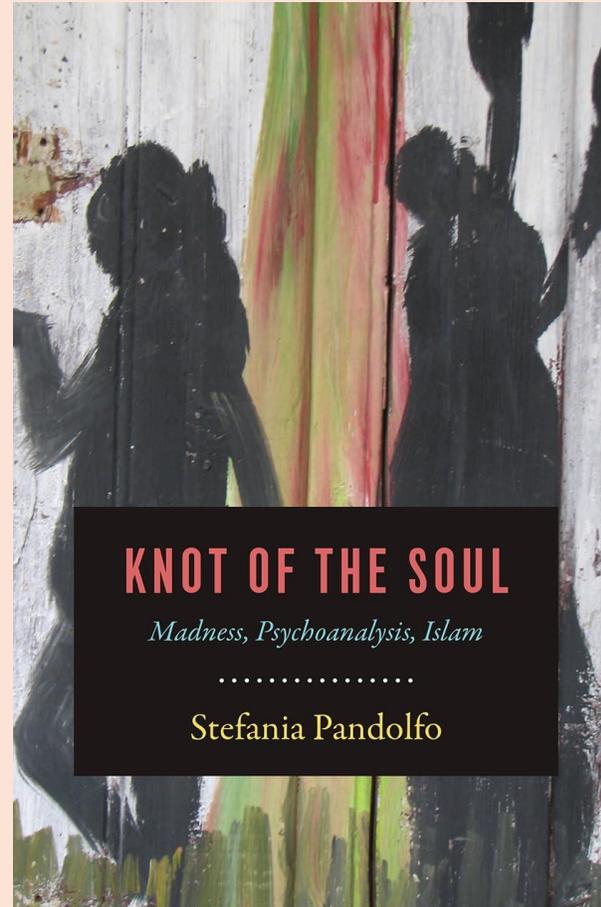
We will take an anthropological approach to the rise and popularity of psychotherapy in the West and elsewhere asking what the key cultural and political precedents and conditions are for psychotherapy's increasing globalisation.



We will ask too how our own deep assumptions about the relations between mind, body, and environment shape our understandings and interactions with others.



Thus we will explore the limitations and potentials of a therapeutically-inspired anthropology.



Core Questions

- How are Madness, Mental Health, and ‘the Mind’ defined differently across cultures?
- What are the different cultural assumptions embedded within psychotherapy and mental health care today? How do they compare with other forms of healing around the world?
- Can psychotherapeutic methods, ethics, and theory be helpful to anthropologists and vice versa?

Key Topics

- Trauma, Grief, Healing Practices, Child Development, and Understandings of 'Mind' across Cultures
- Mental Health, Gender, Ethnicity, & Migration
- The Medicalisation of Madness
- Madness and Religion

Assessment

- Formative Assessment: *Research Outline* (500 words)
- Summative Assessment: *5,000-word essay*

Course Convener: Gareth Breen

- Fieldwork in Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, US, UK.
- Chinese Christianity and Popular Religion, Buddhist Nationalism, migrating ghosts, grief, psychotherapy
- Arts B379
- Office hours:
 - Tuesdays 15.00-17.00

