Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anthropology and Social Change

Program Learning Outcomes – SCT ANTH PHD

Activist Ethnographic Research

1.0 Students will be trained in the activist ethnographic research methodology: an integral anthropological approach that actively includes participants as co-researchers in a reciprocal process of emancipatory knowledge production and co-learning.

1.1 Demonstrates ability to develop a well-articulated research question in the field of emancipatory social sciences.

1.2 Apply activist approach to anthropological research methodology (activist ethnography) with advanced ability to engage in participatory co-research.

1.3 Makes an original scholarly activist ethnographic research contribution (dissertation) to both the discipline of anthropology and the larger social change discourse, focusing on counterhegemony, postcapitalist cultures, or prefigurative practices (study of alternatives).

1.4 Demonstrates ability to translate or contextualize knowledge to specific communities and cultures (intercultural translation).

1.5 Has advanced understanding of the philosophical and epistemological roots of activist ethnographic research.

1.6 Has sufficient command of various applied anthropological research methods; understand research methods practiced in other social science disciplines.

Theoretical

2.0 Students will develop a solid theoretical knowledge base in a variety of approaches to activist anthropology and emancipatory social science

2.1 Demonstrates an integrated intellectual grasp of major theories of sociocultural anthropological theory, critical social theory, and political economy.

2.2 Ability to critically evaluate and link theoretical ideas to understand and address specific issues of power, political, environmental, or social struggle.

2.3 Ability to critically approach conventional notions of the social sciences by engaging multiple epistemologies, methodologies, and theories (integral scholarship); demonstrates responsible use of knowledge from multiple social science disciplines, critically engaging with their literatures, epistemologies, assumptions, and theories.

2.4 Demonstrates advanced understanding of major scholars, scholarly works, and peer-reviewed publications relevant to the field of activist anthropology and specific research topics.

2.5 Engages evolving anthropological understanding of relatedness, sexuality, and kinship systems

Professional and Scholarly Skills
3.0 Students will develop as trained scholars in the social science field of Activist Anthropology.
   3.1 Demonstrates skills applicable to teaching in higher education, publishing, scholarly research, or other professional social science work.
   3.2 Ability to write publishable scholarly (peer reviewed) articles, manuscripts, or research proposals; to present original research in a professional capacity both within the discipline of activist anthropology and within the larger field of social science.
   3.3 Demonstrates ability to write about scholarly or complex topics in a style that communicates to a general audience (written knowledge translation).
   3.4 Ability to work in collaborative, multi-cultural contexts, to contribute creatively to emancipatory social science.

Anthropological Activist Scholarship

4.0 The PhD in Anthropology and Social Change is grounded in ethnographic study of possible alternatives; during the course of the program, the student will develop a solid theoretical and research framework as activist-scholars or scholar-activists.
   4.1 Demonstrates strong ability to integrate theory with real world practice (applied theory).
   4.2 Approaches scholarship from a social justice perspective; approaches social justice activism from a social science perspective.
   4.3 Approaches specific social issues (e.g., political, economic, environmental, social) with a scholarly recognition of their interconnections.
   4.4 Demonstrates ability to create situations or spaces of contextual translation and creative dialogue between academic knowledge and knowledge held outside of higher education (knowledge translation).
   4.5 Demonstrates scholarly ability to research the politics of alternative: ways of being, knowing, and doing—historical or contemporary—that help prefigure postcapitalist alternatives; to engage political and economic anthropology through the study of alternative political and economic systems.
   4.6 Ability to both critically evaluate social issues and use evidence-based knowledge to create/suggest viable social or political alternatives.
   4.7 Produces scholarly research that is both innovative and advances activist ethnography as research methodology.
   4.8 Demonstrates understanding of problematic historical trends in anthropology as a discipline and situates this understanding as a rationale for the turn that activist anthropological scholarship or emancipatory social science offers.
   4.9 Demonstrates understanding of activist anthropology in the context of an evolving sociocultural anthropology with changing approaches to fieldwork.
   4.10 Ability to engage multiple epistemologies, rival knowledges, and justice systems; simultaneously pursuing social and cognitive justice.