CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

One World Anthropology
A masterclass beyond disciplinary boundaries with Tim Ingold
(in co-operation with Martin Porr and Niels Weidtmann)

Date: 22.-26. September 2019
Venue: Forum Scientiarum, Tübingen University, Germany
Application: 19. May 2019
Organisation: Martin Porr, University of Western Australia, and Niels Weidtmann, University of Tübingen, Germany

Topic

Over the last decades, Tim Ingold has become one of the most influential, innovative and prolific writers in anthropology. His work has been transcending established academic and disciplinary boundaries, particularly between social and biological anthropology. Related to this theme is his critical long-term exploration of the relationships between human beings, organisms and their environment. Overall, Tim Ingold’s work is truly transdisciplinary and his thinking is impacting more and more areas of research and other intellectual and artistic fields in profound ways. He is both deeply engaged in debates about latest developments in anthropology, archaeology, education and social theory, but at the same time does not engage in a fashionable proliferation of theoretical concepts and terminologies.

The masterclass will be structured in six sessions:

1. Science, life and lines
   Tim Ingold has developed a view of life that concentrates on dynamic movement, engagement, perception and exploration. In the context of the social sciences and humanities, Tim Ingold has for a long time argued against the division between a biological and a social domain, or, more specifically, social and biological anthropology. He regards this separation (which seems to have been gaining momentum recently) as detrimental to the understanding of human lifeways and their rich innovative potentials.

2. Anthropology, history and evolution
   The critical considerations about a separation of biological and social anthropology have profound consequences for the understanding of the deep past of humanity and human evolution. Against this view, Ingold has proposed a relational understanding of developing and emerging organisms to break down the division between history and evolution.

3. Understanding dwelling, growing and making
   Skill is different from knowledge because it relates to the bodily and phenomenological attunement to the environment. It involves the constant coordination of perception and action. On a larger scale, these considerations have been framed by Tim Ingold within a dwelling perspective that focusses on the temporal rhythms that create human buildings and landscapes.
4. Anthropology as/and Education: Learning and the University

Engagement with processes of learning are central to Tim Ingold’s view of an integrative anthropology that focusses on the dynamics of life processes. The acquisition of skilled practice is understood as a movement along a way of life. This process does not involve absorbing a corpus of rules and principles that were created by previous generations. Rather, learning is always an active practice.

5. The political ontology of art, archaeology and knowledge in Australia (Martin Porr)

The Aboriginal artistic and cultural traditions of Australia, their histories, philosophies and characteristics, have been a key subject of interest for European observers and scholars for a very long time. This session will provide the opportunity to engage with and discuss several case studies from Australia that draw on Tim Ingold’s work, a relational ontological orientation and the notion of political ontology in the context of archaeological and anthropological research.

6. Intercultural philosophy and phenomenology: Its place in the present world (Niels Weidtmann)

In the era of intercultural encounter the philosophical understanding of the human is challenged. It is the experiences which constitute the way humans act, think (philosophise) and form their own life-world; experiences even constitute the specific shape of human rationality. In an intercultural context this is the reason for the plurality of different cultural life-worlds and ways of being human. However, experience is not simply human-made but results from the creative and continuously changing interaction of human beings and world. This is the reason why the notion of experience may even challenge the dichotomy of nature/culture.

Organisation

This masterclass will enable discussions with Tim Ingold about his ideas and contributions across several themes. It will be of interest to participants from a wide range of disciplines. Each session will consist of an initial overview paper by Tim Ingold, which is followed by participant contributions and discussions. Two additional sessions by the course organisers allow a critical engagement with the application of some of Tim Ingold’s ideas in anthropological, archaeological and philosophical case studies.

Participants must present a 15-minute paper that critically discusses one of the themes and/or questions of the masterclass. Engagement with current research questions and issues are particularly welcome as well as connections with current PhD projects.

Application

This masterclass is open to doctoral students from all disciplines (applications of master students will be considered in exceptional cases). Participants must present a 15-minute paper that critically engages with one of the themes of the masterclass. Engagement with current research questions and issues are particularly welcome as well as connections with current PhD projects.

Applicants should supply the following documents:
- Application form (available here: [www.forum-scientiarum.uni-tuebingen.de](http://www.forum-scientiarum.uni-tuebingen.de))
- CV (2 pages max)
- 300-word expression of interest
- paper title and 300-word abstract (please indicate preferred session)
Applications should be sent until May 19th the latest to info@fsci.uni-tuebingen.de or to our postal address:

FORUM SCIENTIARUM
Doblerstr. 33
D-72074 Tübingen
Germany

There is no program fee. The Forum Scientiarum will assist participants in finding inexpensive accommodation. For more information please see our website (www.forum-scientiarum.uni-tuebingen.de).

Biographies

Tim Ingold was appointed to a Chair at the University of Manchester in 1990, and in 1995 he became Max Gluckman Professor of Social Anthropology. He was Editor of 'Man' (the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute) from 1990 to 1992 and edited the Routledge 'Companion Encyclopedia of Anthropology', published in 1994. He was elected to a Fellowship of the British Academy in 1997, and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2000. In 1999 he was President of the Anthropology and Archaeology Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1999, Tim Ingold moved to take up the newly established Chair of Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen, where he has been instrumental in setting up the UK’s youngest Department of Anthropology, established in 2002. In September 2018 he became Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen.

In his recent work, linking the themes of environmental perception and skilled practice, Ingold has attempted to replace traditional models of genetic and cultural transmission, founded upon the alliance of neo-Darwinian biology and cognitive science, with a relational approach focusing on the growth of embodied skills of perception and action within social and environmental contexts of development. In his latest research he has been exploring three themes, all arising from his earlier work on the perception of the environment, concerning first, the dynamics of pedestrian movement, secondly, the creativity of practice, and thirdly, the linearity of writing.

Niels Weidtmann is Director of the interdisciplinary institute Forum Scientiarum at the University of Tübingen. Niels does research in intercultural philosophy, phenomenology, hermeneutics, anthropology, and the philosophy of science. He teaches at the Department of Philosophy and at the Forum Scientiarum. Niels has held a guest professorship at the University of Vienna in 2016. He is author of a couple of books and has published a wide range of articles. Weidtmann is a board member of the International Society of Intercultural Philosophy.

Martin Porr is Associate Professor of Archaeology and a member of the Centre for Rock Art Research & Management at the University of Western Australia (UWA). He received his PhD from the University of Southampton in 2002. He was employed at the Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte (Halle/Saale, Germany) and was Museum Director of the Städtische Museen Quedlinburg (Germany). Since July 2018 he has been Discipline Chair for Archaeology at UWA. He teaches archaeology at undergraduate and honours level and supervises postgraduate research students. He has published widely on Palaeolithic art and archaeology as well as general theoretical aspects of archaeological and rock art research.Between August 2015 and December 2017, he was based at the Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte at the Universität Tübingen as an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow.