



university of
groningen

faculty of religion, culture
and society

| 1

MA Anthropology of Religion and Culture

Understanding different lifeworlds





Why is anthropological *understanding different lifeworlds* important?

- It puts WEIRD common-sense into perspective
- It enables inter-cultural dialogue and cooperation
- It gives a voice to marginal points of view
- It understands cultural difference as resource (alternative knowledge and wisdom)



Unique anthropology program in the Netherlands

- focus on **religion & culture**
- as embedded in specific **lifeworlds**
- engaging with those lifeworlds through **ethnographic research**

faculty RCS:

- **interdisciplinary dialogue**
- connection to **research centers** (expertise, networks, assistantships)



ethnographic research

- > what is ethnographic research?
- > examples of student research
- > alternative forms of ethnographic research (e.g. reading sources, objects, novels ethnographically)



“Ethnography of course means many things. Minimally, however, it has always meant the attempt to understand another life world using the self-as much of it as possible-as the instrument of knowing. (...) Classically, this kind of understanding has been closely linked with field work, in which the whole self physically and in every other way enters the space of the world the researcher seeks to understand.”

(Sherry B. Ortner 1995: 173)



The ARC-team



Peter Berger



Kim Knibbe

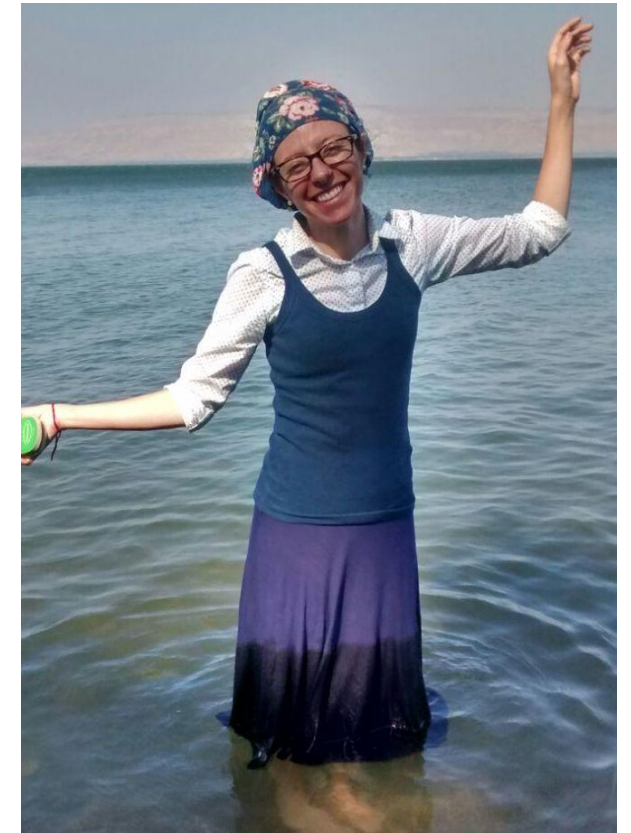


Manoela Carpenedo



Dr. Manoela Carpenedo

- › PhD in Cambridge (2019).
- › Anthropology of Christianity, the Anthropology of Moralities and Digital Anthropology
- › Religious Violence, Political Mobilization
- › Latin American societies and the connections between Latin America and Africa.
- › Fieldwork in Conservative Christian communities, Pentecostal Latino Migrant Churches (Paris and London) and Afro-Brazilian religious temples (Batuque, Candomblé and Umbanda).



Dr. Carpenedo in Israel with a group of Judaizing Evangelicals

Dr Kim Knibbe

- PhD in anthropology 2007, VU University Amsterdam
- Expertise: anthropology of Christianity, contemporary spirituality, Pentecostalism, phenomenological approaches, gender + sexuality, anthropology of the secular
- recently completed project: Sexuality, Religion, Secularism. Cultural encounters in the African Diaspora
- current project: pregnancy, motherhood and citizenship (with Brenda Bartelink), Philippines and Kenya

Religion and Sexual Wellbeing: Pleasure, Piety, and Reproductive Rights

Explore how religion, culture, and politics intersect with women's sexual wellbeing.

★★★★★ 4.8 (13 reviews) 2,143 enrolled on this course





Dr. Peter Berger

- PhD anthropology (2004), Free University of Berlin
- Teaching experience in Germany, India, Switzerland, UG (since 2007)
- Regional expertise: India, Odisha
- Fieldwork in India since 1996; with Indigenous peoples (Adivasi) of Odisha
- Research topics: religion, ritual, food, death, cultural change, economy, values
- Current project: Cereal Cultures



Peter as ritual participant



The faculty

- Ca. 25 researchers studying and teaching on religion, culture and society
- Highly international faculty
- Multidisciplinary
(history, sociology, psychology, political science, philosophy...)
- Small scale, easy student/teacher interaction



Research Centers at the Faculty RCS

- Centre for Religion, Conflict, and Globalization
- Institute of Indian Studies
- Centre for Religion, Health, and Wellbeing
- Centre for Religion and Heritage

- > Expertise on various topics and regions
- > Local and international contacts and networks
- > Support students' research
- > Tell others about your research in the blog [Religion Factor](#)
- > Possibility of assistantships



The program

- **Anthropology of Religion and Culture** is a track of the MA Theology & Religious Study (next to Religion & Heritage and other tracks)
- **One year program**, option for two year Research Master



Block 1 (15 ECTS)
compulsory:

1. Concepts & Debates:
Understanding Lifeworlds
2. Researching Lifeworlds:
Histories & Methods

Block 2 (15 ECTS)
compulsory:

1. Concepts & Debates:
Anthropology in Dialogue
2. Researching Lifeworlds:
Methods & Research Design

First Semester:

- anthropological concepts and debates
- anthropology >< other disciplines
- ethnographic methods & research design
- specific topics

note: changes possible



Block 1 (15 ECTS)

compulsory:

1. Concepts & Debates:
Understanding Lifeworlds
2. Researching Lifeworlds:
Histories & Methods

electives: (one of several)

Religion, Gender & Sexuality
Psychopathology & Religion
Material Religion

Block 2 (15 ECTS)

compulsory:

1. Concepts & Debates:
Anthropology in Dialogue
2. Researching Lifeworlds:
Methods & Research Design

electives: (one of several)

Global Dynamics/Local Cosmologies
Migration, Culture & Identity
Museums and Religion

First Semester:

- anthropological concepts and debates
- anthropology >< other disciplines
- ethnographic methods & research design
- specific topics

note: changes possible



Second Semester

Block 1

ethnographic research
(8-10 weeks)

Block 2

writing thesis

possibility of 2 year
Research Master
program

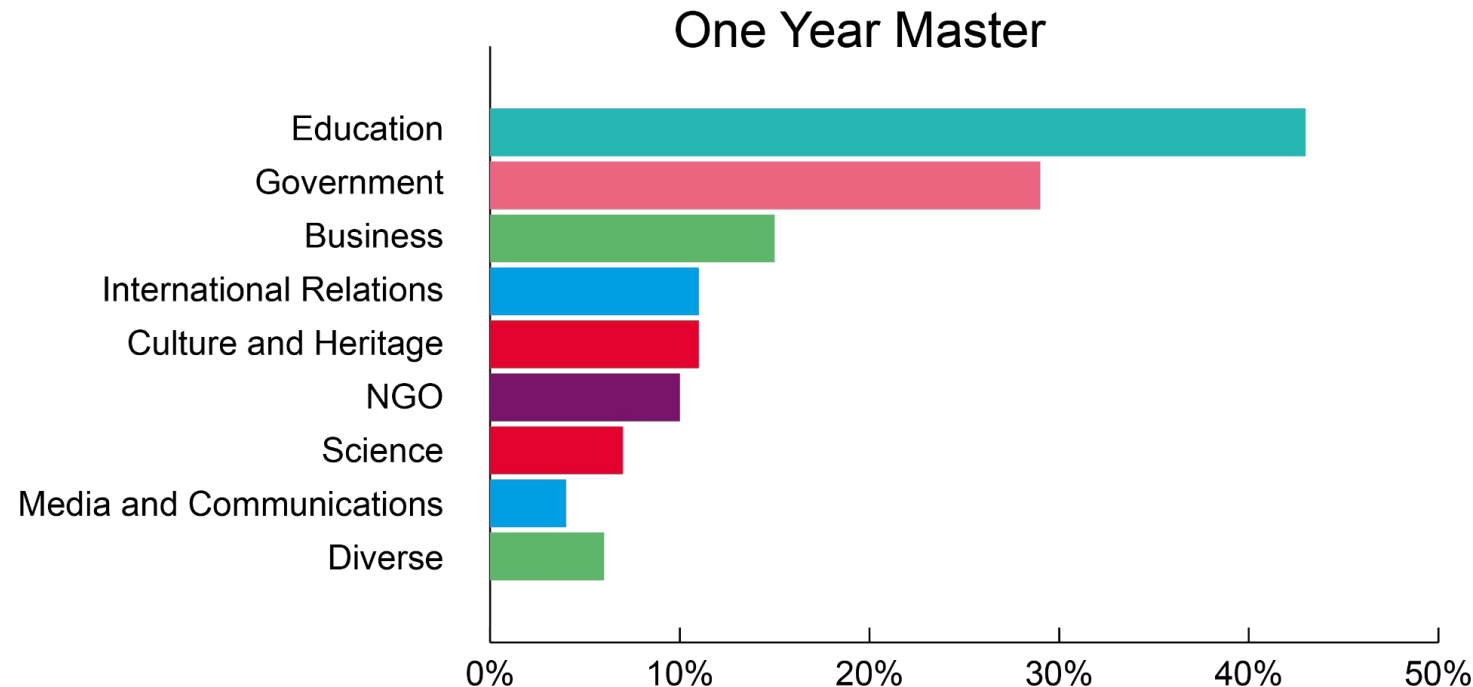


After Graduation of the one year MA

- > *Please note: as this MA-track will start in September, there are no results yet of this specific MA-track*
- > But: a survey carried out in 2021 showed that of our one year MA-alumni:
 - . 80% find a job within 6 months
 - . 95% find a job within a year
 - 96% at least at BA-level

*Are you curious where our alumni
 are working currently?*

See rug.nl/racs-alumni-ma





Entry Requirements for the one year MA's

- > Bachelor's degree in:
 - Religious Studies
 - Arts
 - Philosophy
 - Social Sciences (e.g. Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology)
 - Spatial Sciences (specialization Cultural Geography)
 - Theology

Depending on your former degree programme and courses a reading package will be provided.

- > Students with another bachelor's degree are admitted if they completed one of our University Minors: **Anthropology, Art and Religion** or **Religion in the Modern World**
- > Otherwise, you will be admitted via a pre masters programme



Ambitions in education?

- > If you would like to become a **teacher** in high school or at a university for applied sciences, you could do an additional postmaster in education (in Dutch): Postmaster LVHO



Are there any questions?



Further questions?

Contact in case of questions about:

- > The MA: studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl
- > Admissibility with a non-Dutch bachelor's degree: please fill in the SIA [contact form](#)

More information about Talent Grants and Scholarships
(for students outside the European Economic Area): rug.nl/rcs/education/master

More information about the MA programme: rug.nl/arc

Enrolment deadlines

1 May 2025 (start in September 2025)



[/religionculturesociety.rug](https://www.instagram.com/religionculturesociety.rug)



[/company/religionculturesociety](https://www.linkedin.com/company/religionculturesociety)