

The insider outsider problem

“The claim that it is possible to study religion adequately from a disinterested position has been hotly debated. Can the understanding of the observer achieve the same level of insight and authority as the participant in a religion? No serious student of religion can avoid confronting this question.”

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/religious-studies/studying-religion/content-section-7.3>

Is it possible to effectively study religion if you are that religion?
Can you be an atheist and be objective in your study of religion?

Is it offensive to religious adherents if you join in with their practices for the purpose of studying that religion?

. JOHN'S · SCOUT



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuWAct31BV8&list=PLO-wxly9sHybZmjnhhkGSGh1fllGUNLT&index=13>

In his work Bruce Parry takes part in tribal rituals. Do you think that taking part from an insiders perspective helps him understand the reason behind the ritual? Can he ever fully understand the Tribes experience? Does his immersive exploration of the tribe help or hinder his study?



<https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/podcast-george-chryssides-on-the-insideroutsider-problem/>

How can making the strange familiar as an outsider difficult?
How can being in a religion muddy the water or confuse matters when you try and study your religion?

The Insider/ outsider perspective in Buddhist ritual:

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=5kRRZ6sQOdkC&pg=PA57&dq=insider+outsider+perspectives&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjxmZ3E3IrpAhWDnVwKHRhGBIgQ6AEIWjAH#v=onepage&q=insider%20outsider%20perspectives&f=false>

