

Deakin Anthropology Seminars 2020

Associate Professor
Chris Houston

Macquarie University



Alternative me? Anthropology and self-alteration

Contemporary life across the globe is awash with activities, enterprises, programmes, and practices that purport to foster self-alteration. Young and not so young alike are inveigled and mobilized to take-up or buy into myriad projects of *self-change*, through education, training, mastery of new skills, spiritual-development, therapy, community participation, voluntarism. But can we be whatever we want? How easy is it to alter one's self? This paper discusses a number of questions concerning anthropology about the processes and experiences of self-alteration.



Chris Houston is associate professor and head of Anthropology at Macquarie University. Much of Chris' research deals with the political repercussions of Turkish republicanism. He has worked on the Kurdish question in Turkey and on the politics of Islam, and has a particular interest in the build environment and the control of space by the Republic. He has a wider interest in phenomenological anthropology. Chris is author of *Islam, Kurds and the Turkish National State* (Oxford, 2001), *Kurdistan: The Crafting of National Selves* (Oxford, 2008) and most recently, *Istanbul, City of the Fearless: Urban Activism, Coup d'état, and Memory in Turkey* (University of California Press, 2020)



Thursday 6 August, 4.00-5.30pm via zoom

Please register here: <https://alternative-me-anthropology-and-self-alteration.eventbrite.com.au>

Zoom log in details will be circulated on the day.

This presentation will be based on a pre-circulated paper and will include a response from Melinda Hinkson, Deakin.

For further information contact melinda.hinkson@deakin.edu.au or gillian.tan@deakin.edu.au