

**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES &
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**Invitation to AMC Seminar
(No.2014/02)**

Venue:

AMC Seminar Hall
3rd Floor, AMC building, SCTIMST

Date & Time:

February 04, 2014 (Tuesday)
14:00-15:30 hours

Topic:

“Sociocultural Factors in Recovery from Schizophrenia: Considering Kerala and the
“Developing Country Advantage” in Treatment of Psychopathology ”

Speaker

DR MURPHY HALLIBURTON

Department of Anthropology, Queens College and the Graduate Center,
City University of New York(CUNY), USA

Chairperson

Dr. V Raman Kutty,

Professor, Achutha Menon Centre, SCTIMST

*Doctors, academics, administrators, policy makers, journalists, activists, etc who are interested in public
health issues are cordially invited.*

*AMC Seminar Series are available at
<http://elearning.sctimst.ac.in/moodle/enrol/index.php?id=12>
Login as Guest using password *amc**

Tea would be served at the end of the session. A brief note on the speaker is given overleaf.

Murphy Halliburton, PhD

Department of Anthropology

Queens College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY), USA

Sociocultural Factors in Recovery from Schizophrenia: Considering Kerala and the “Developing Country Advantage” in Treatment of Psychopathology

One of the most provocative findings in epidemiology in the last four decades has been the comparative advantage shown by developing countries when compared to developed country sites in studies conducted by the WHO on rates of recovery from schizophrenia and related serious mental illness. Of all the sites investigated in the WHO studies, those in India showed the best results in terms of improvement among people diagnosed with schizophrenia. While other researchers have attempted to explain this “developing country advantage” through surveys and psychological instruments, current research the presenter is undertaking in Kerala uses in-depth, qualitative accounts of former schizophrenics and ethnographic observations to attempt to explain why people in India recover more fully from psychopathology. In particular, this paper will examine how family relations, the informal work economy and relatively good prospects for marriage among schizophrenics may be improving their condition.

Murphy Halliburton bio sketch:

Murphy Halliburton is associate professor of anthropology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He specializes in medical anthropology, psychological anthropology and the history and culture of India. Since the 1990s he has conducted research on issues related to culture and mental health with a particular focus on Kerala and its diverse healing traditions. He is the author of *Mudpacks and Prozac: Experiencing Ayurvedic, Biomedical and Religious Healing* (Left Coast Press, 2009), a study of treatments for mental illness in Kerala, and he is currently in Kerala conducting research on recovery from schizophrenia on a Fulbright-Nehru research grant.