

Tamasin Ramsay, PhD

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Dr. Tamasin Ramsay is an anthropologist and researcher whose focus is exploring the relationship between human beings and the environment in which they live. Born and raised in 1970s Australia, she learned from her parents how to live gently on the earth and respect the natural world. Tamasin was “green” before the term came into popular usage, and continues to deepen her commitment to living a life of non-violence and regard for nature.

Academic

Motivated by her own spiritual practice, Tamasin began exploring ways in which spiritual practice impacts people and shapes their experiences of trauma and complex emergencies such as disasters. This deep personal interest took her through Europe, the Middle East and South East Asia as she continued to seek answers. By enrolling in her first graduate degree in medical anthropology, at the University of Melbourne, Tamasin discovered a framework with which to explore the connection between spiritual philosophy and its lived experience in situations of unrest. After taking out her Graduate Diploma, Tamasin, a rather insatiable learner, was awarded three scholarships used to undertake her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Monash University. Tamasin graduated in 2009.

Humanitarian

Since then Tamasin has worked as NGO Representative to the United Nations for the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, and is an active participant at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee meetings. Tamasin now practices as an environmental anthropologist, with a special interest in the way in which the thinking, attitude and behaviour of people affects the overall wellbeing of humanity within the world’s natural and built environments. She is also a member of the Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative, and advises the BKWSU regarding their preparedness, response and outreach during disasters. Tamasin is warm, dedicated and bright, and brings both passion and intelligence to her pursuit of unique avenues of peace-building, in an increasingly complex world.

Fieldwork

What Tamasin loves most is doing fieldwork with local communities and watching as innovation born from struggle emerges bringing change. One example of this is an ingenious research project called “Sustainable Yogic Agriculture”. Initiated by the Brahma Kumaris Rural Wing, farmers from small-hold agrarian communities throughout India are combining thought-based meditative practices with methods of organic agriculture to improve their livelihoods and community wellbeing.

Tamasin balances her life in the field by working voluntarily with the American Red Cross and the New York City Medical Reserve Corps, and grassroots communities on one hand, and participating in high-level gatherings at the United Nations and in the academic world on the other. Tamasin is an applied anthropologist, a published author and presents regularly at international conferences.