

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

**Living in Two Worlds: How tourism has influenced the
Balinese worldview of Tri Hita Karana**

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of
Master of Arts
in
Social Anthropology
at Massey University, Albany,
New Zealand.

Gregory Stuart Parker
2011

Table of Contents

<i>Abstract</i>	iv
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	v
CHAPTER 1 Introduction	1
1.0 Introduction to the Research.....	1
1.1 Rationale for Research.....	2
1.2 Research Objectives.....	2
1.3 Significance of the Thesis.....	3
1.4 Personal Context.....	3
1.5 Historical Context.....	4
1.6 Organization of Thesis.....	8
CHAPTER 2 Literature Review	10
2.0 Introduction.....	10
2.1 The Background behind the Philosophy.....	11
2.2 The Relationship between Tourism and Balinese culture.....	15
2.3 The Balance with the Gods.....	19
2.4 The Balance with other Humans.....	22
2.5 The Balance with the Environment.....	30
2.6 Conclusions and Needs for Additional Research.....	33
CHAPTER 3 Methodology	35
3.0 Introduction.....	35
3.1 Statement of Methodology.....	35
3.2 Subject Population.....	36
3.3 Overview of Nyuh Kuning Community.....	37
3.4 Description of Research Design.....	38
3.5 Validity.....	45
3.6 Ethical Considerations.....	46
3.7 Limitations of Research.....	47

CHAPTER 4 Findings	50
4.0 Introduction.....	50
4.1 The Origin and Evolution of the Philosophy.....	50
4.2 Interpretations and Application of the Philosophy.....	53
4.3 The Relationship between Man and God.....	56
4.4 The Relationship between Man and the Community.....	60
4.5 The Relationship between Man and the Environment.....	68
4.6 Summary	74
 CHAPTER 5 Conclusions	 75
5.0 Introduction.....	75
5.1 The Philosophy and the Nyuh Kuning Community.....	75
5.2 The Relationship with the Gods.....	76
5.3 The Relationship with Others.....	77
5.4 The Relationship with the Environment.....	80
5.5 Overall Conclusions.....	82
5.6 Fulfillment of the Research Objectives.....	82
5.7 Links to Recent Research.....	84
 CHAPTER 6 Recommendations	 86
6.0 Summary.....	86
6.1 Recommendations.....	86
6.2 Limitations of Study.....	89
6.3 Further Research.....	91
 Bibliography	 93
 APPENDICES	
Appendix A	100
Glossary.....	100
 Appendix B	 103
Interview Questions.....	103

Abstract

This thesis readdresses the scarcity of research that relates to the role and influence of tourism on the Balinese worldview of *Tri Hita Karana*. It achieves this principally through an ethnographic study of a specific Balinese community. Three specific objectives were fulfilled; (a) to develop a clearer understanding of the origin and evolution of the philosophy and how it has been applied in contemporary Bali (b) how the different pillars of this philosophy have been affected by the processes of tourism (c) to provide insight into the reasons why the application of the philosophy in a practical context is challenging.

Interviews were conducted with Balinese living within the tourist community of Nyuh Kuning. The interviews focused on their relationship and interaction with the *Tri Hita Karana* philosophy and how tourism had influenced this. Recurrent themes from these interviews were identified, documented and analyzed.

Key conclusions drawn from the results imply; (a) that the processes of tourism have had both a positive and negative influence on the three different pillars of this worldview (b) the community continues to apply and reinforce the *Tri Hita Karana* in a spiritual and metaphorical sense but simultaneously struggles to maintain within a practical context a sense of harmony and balance with others and the natural environment (c) the understanding and application of the philosophy needs to be reexamined if it is to be effective in promoting balance and harmony in both the spiritual and material world.

This thesis proposes recommendations for this worldview to be applied in a more realistic and concrete framework that enables its guiding principles to adapt and absorb the ongoing processes of tourism.

Keywords: philosophy, worldview, spiritual, material, pillars, *Tri Hita Karana*, balance, harmony, tourism.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge that approval for the study had been obtained from the Massey University Ethics Committee prior to the research described in this thesis.

Secondly, it is with respect and gratitude that I would like to thank my supervisor, Graeme McRae who offered considerable guidance, feedback and support throughout the entire writing of this thesis.

A deep appreciation is also expressed to all of the participants who partook in the interviewing process and who provided significant insight and understanding of the *Tri Hita Karana* philosophy. I would also like to thank Esma Zalkip for her feedback in reviewing the initial results and conclusions of the thesis. In addition, I would like to thank Anne Tully for her diligence in editing the final draft.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Diane for her patience, unconditional support and her assistance in networking and organizing interviews.