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**PRESERVING THE SANCTITY OF TEMPLE SITES IN BALI:  
CHALLENGES FROM TOURISM**

**I Nengah Subadra**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the University of  
Lincoln for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**May 2015**

# **PRESERVING THE SANCTITY OF TEMPLE SITES IN BALI: CHALLENGES FROM TOURISM**

## **Abstract**

This research set out to explore the consequences for Balinese worshippers of their temples being officially designated as cultural tourism sites. Bali is well documented as having a long and extensive exposure to international tourism; the focus of much previous scholarship, however, has been on the influences of tourism on cultural performance (specifically of dance and music) rather than on sites that continue to be used by local people for worship – in this case, Hindu temples. Two such sites, the public temples of Goa Lawah and Tirtha Empul, were selected as case study sites. These were investigated by means of an empirical approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques: surveys, in-depth interviews, focus group discussion and participant observation.

The concepts of cultural misunderstanding and authenticity were investigated in terms of their meanings to both tourists and worshippers at these sites. Further findings revealed a complex pattern of resistance, conflict and accommodation among and between various interested parties, such as international tourists, tour guides, villagers, local worshippers and those from further away, and state officials. Key factors shaping these patterns were the ways in which visitor management was organised in the temples, in particular the practice of permitting tourists to enter the inner, most sacred courtyard of each temple. A further source of conflict was the way in which the revenue from tourism was distributed between local villages and regional government. Some recommendations have been advanced as to how visitor management might serve all temple users more effectively.

**Keywords:** cultural tourism, preservation of sanctity, authenticity, conflict and resistance, cultural misunderstanding, interpretation, visitor management, Goa Lawah, Tirtha Empul.

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“Om Suasti Astu”

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“Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om”

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