

Handbook In the Field AHAN5011



Spring term 2018

Luci Attala

l.attala@uwtsd.ac.uk

Course structure

- 2 hours informal seminar/workshop/lectures per week (Thursday 2-4, Mat Lab)
- 4 hours, with Andy, Friday 2-6, Khalifa 2 (module code HPID4003, Working in Development)
- Approx. 1 month in the field (Rwanda)

To complete this course you are expected to attend both Luci and Andy's sessions.

The above periods of contact time are designed to prepare you for your time in the field. As this course acts as a deepening of the information you have received in Skills for the Field at level four, some of the information we cover will encourage you to revisit that course and your experiences on it – with a view to promote both understanding and personal improvement. In addition, we will explore the main tenets of Applied Anthropology, giving attention to the pitfalls, controversies and ethical issues whilst simultaneously attending specifically to the field site that acts as your destination and your intentions, hopes, fears of working in the area you have chosen.

As the above suggests, time in the field is an intensely personal affair; no two experiences are the same, but all experiences will bring up emotions and can be potentially turbulent. Saying that, they are equally exciting and empowering. With that in mind, we hope to prepare you for both the practical and emotional likelihoods of being a fieldworker so that you are ready for the potentially life-changing experience that this can be. As a result, preparing you effectively demands your attention and your concentration. Therefore, the level of your engagement will be the determinant of your preparation. Consequently, as you can see, YOU are the key to this working and I strongly urge you to take this process seriously – both through attending contact times and through your reading and thinking.

In addition to the contact time, you will spend 1 month in the field. This will take place during April and the site will be negotiated with the course convenor.

Course content

The overall aim of this module is to extend your understanding and experience of being a fieldworker. To achieve this the course primarily takes a practical stance but this is supported by a series of preparatory workshops. The combination of both act to give you experience but also to enable you to recognise the complexities of working effectively in the field, in groups, in collaboration and with cultural sensitivity. By the end of this module you will be expected to have made a contribution to the community you are working with.

By the end of the module – once the assignments are complete - you should be critically aware of how you have contributed to the community, be able to critically reflect on the part you played in the field, and how you might have improved your practice to be more effective in the field. You will have accumulated data from the field and will have demonstrated your ability to work independently and in a team.

Assignments

You have 4 assessments to complete for this module. They are labelled 1-4 but are not completed one after the other. For example, assignments 2 and 3 are completed concurrently. Deadlines will be posted on Moodle.

Assessment Component 1 – 10%

A 1000 word proposal offering rationale, choice of research direction and acknowledgement of ethical concerns and risks associated with the fieldwork site.

Assessment Component 2 – 20%

Journal/reflexive/fieldnotes (data) accumulated during fieldwork

Assessment Component 3 – 45%

Design and create (in the form of a poster, web blog/vlog, pinterest board or similar) a fund- or awareness- raising event constructed with and for the benefit of the community **Assessment Component 4 – 25%**

Presentation that critically reflects on the student's project (assessment component 3) – including explanation of its rationale, intentions, and how the aims and problems of creation and implementation were addressed or negotiated (10 minutes)

Overview of the Luci's contact time (see Andy's moodle page for his details)

Title of workshop per week

1. Anthropology 'put to use' – defining applied anthropology
 - a. Purity and danger – using anthropology 'dirties' it
 - b. History of Anthropology: colonial concerns and authority (Key text: Pink, 2005 *Applications of Anthropology* – Intro chapter and Roberts 'The pure and the impure' in Pink, 2005 *Applications of Anthropology*)
2. The importance of fieldwork – learning-from (Ingold 2014)
 - a. using the method
 - b. asking questions
 - c. ethics
 - d. body language

3. Globalisation – ‘the g/local’ – the issues inherent in development and change (Key text: Wasson et al, *Applying Anthropology in the Global Village*)
4. Advocacy? Power dynamics in the field
5. Reading week
6. Your field, your questions
7. Practicalities in the field – keeping contact – safety, recognising issues (personal); recording info -dairies, databases, photos, passwords; listening, doing, applying theory
8. Overview

Reading list

Core

Pink, S. 2005 *Applications of Anthropology: professional anthropology in the 21st century* Berghahn: Oxford and New York

Podolefsky, A., Brown, P., and Lacy, S. 2012 *Applying Anthropology: an introductory reader* McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Recommended

Andreatta, S., and Ferraro, G. P. 2012 *Elements of Culture: an applied perspective* Wadsworth: CA

Erikson, T. 2006. *Engaging Anthropology: The Case for a Public Presence*. Oxford: Berg

Ervin, A. 2004. *Applied Anthropology: Tools and Perspectives for Contemporary Practice*. (2nd ed.) Allyn and Bacon.

Field, L. and Fox, R. (Eds.) 2007. *Anthropology Put to Work*. Berg. (E-book)

Hopkins, R. 2013 *The Power of Just Doing Stuff: how local action can change the world* Green Books

Shepard, B. H. 2014 *Community Projects as Social Activism: from direct action to direct services* Sage: Thousand Oaks CA

Strang, V. 2009 *What Anthropologists Do* Berg: Oxford and New York

Robben, A.C. G. M and Sulka, J. A 2012 *Ethnographic Fieldwork: an anthropological reader* Blackwell: Malden, MA

Van Willigen, J. 2000 *Applied Anthropology: An introduction* Greenwood: USA

Wasson, C., Butler, M. O., and Copeland-Carson, J. 2011 *Applying Anthropology in the Global Village* Left Coast Press Inc.

Journals

Anthropology in Action

Practicing Anthropology

Websites

AAA, American Anthropological Association <http://www.aaanet.org>

AAA, Ethics resources <http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ethics/Ethics-Resources.cfm>

Anthropology News <http://www.anthropology-news.org>

ASA Ethics Guidelines <http://www.theasa.org/ethics/guidelines.shtml> NAPA

National Association Practicing Anthropologists

<http://practicinganthropology.org>

SfAA Society for Applied Anthropologists <http://www.sfaa.net>

<https://www.transitionnetwork.org/>