



Sky Journal Timing

Your 3000 word Sky Journal paper needs to be submitted by 11.59 pm BST on Monday 27 August.

- You need to have it finished ready for polishing by Monday 8 August.
- It takes you a month to create your SJ, so you need to start by 20 August at the very latest.
- It takes you a week to two weeks to get your SJ proposal completed and approved. So you need to be working on that by early June at the latest!

So best to start thinking now!



MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
 Proposal for a Sky Journal for the Heavenly Discourse Module AHAN7024
 University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Please complete the following form and submit it to Bernadette Brady, Darrelyn [Gundburg](#), or Nick Campian for acceptance of your proposal. This form is to help you clarify your ideas for your proposed sky journal. We recognise that the journal may evolve, so the purpose of this form is to make sure that you have a starting point.

Name:

Theme of your Sky Journal

What is the purpose or theme of your sky journal?

Academic Rationale

What is to background to your sky journal? What literature has informed your thinking for your project?

Methodology

Outline your methodology for creating your sky journal. For example, will you be creating images via photography or drawing? Will your journal contain reflexive considerations? Where possible please use citations to justify the reason for your choice of methodologies.

The Form of your Sky Journal

What form will your sky journal take? Will your journal be submitted as text based with images, or text with film, sculpture, [artwork](#)? (Please be aware if you are making a physical artwork then you would need to only submit photographs of that work with your 3000 words of text.)

Sky Journal Resources

The information below will get you started, additional sky journal resources will be added as we build this page.

- Ideas for creating your sky journal
- Bernadette's notes on process philosophy and the changing sky
- Bernadette's lecture on Sky Watching
- Celestial Sphere - Kurdistan Planetarium
This is a brief - 2 minutes 45 second - lesson on the celestial sphere.
- Bernadette Brady - Star Paths - SEAC 2011 paper
- John Goldsmith - 'Enlightened, illuminated, or light-polluted?'
- Laura Cummings 'Ten best skies in art'
- The Cloud Appreciation Society Home Page
- TED Talk - Gavin Pretton - 'Cloudy with a chance of joy', June 2013
- Earth Sky Organisation
- The International Dark Sky Association
- Notes on conducting a research using a reflexive methodology**
- Notes on the Insider/Outsider issues
- Notes on Reflexivity
- Notes on Phenomenology
- sky Software**
- Stellarium - Free Planetarium Software
- Sky Watching Apps for smart phones and tablets

Photographing the Night Sky

- The World at Night (TWAN)- how to photograph the sky at night
- How to photograph star trails
- More information on photographing the night sky
- YouTube on photographing the night sky

- Photographing stars and moon
- StarStaX - free software for helping you with star trails.
- Plains Milky Way
- Atmospheric Optics
- Rotating Sky Explorer - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Example of how to write up a Sky Journal

- GUNZBURG - Example of how to write up your Sky Journal

Creating your journal

Like any qualitative research project you will be required to make field notes. These field notes may be reflexive in nature as well as they may contain images, photographs or drawings. Thus, for example, you can record the appearance of the sky, your responses to the sky and/or you could talk to others about their responses to the sky. **This field work, your observations and notes, need to be written up in the context of other literature.**

Your writing up will be shaped by the nature of your research and field notes. **Reflexive field notes will need to discuss the methodology of reflexive and then relate this to other literature.** Additionally the research may draw on art or literature for contrast or comparisons. If the field notes are ethnographical in nature then the work will need to be placed in an anthropological context.

In contrast you may be recording the changing sky, in which case your field work may be related to philosophical literature such as process philosophy.

Thus your 3000 word Sky Journal paper will include an account of your methods, your findings (images, and notes) and a discussion which places your field work into the context of the sky as a cultural resource.

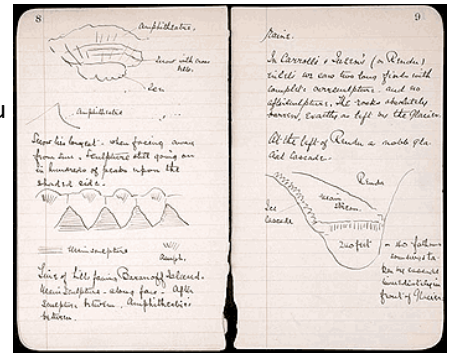


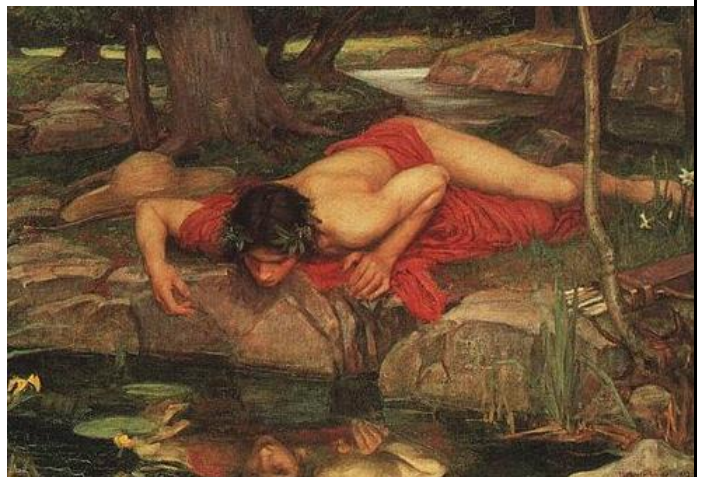
image courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History

What is meant by 'reflexivity'?

Researchers are reflexive and critically examine their own assumptions and action through being 'self-conscious' and self-aware about their research process.

Researchers need to reflect about their own location in culture, time and place, as well as their actions and interactions as their role of researcher in the field and any assumptions they might have.

Objective or neutral claims about the world are highly suspect to the reflexive scholar.



Practical Reflexivity:
some questions to
ask yourself during
the process

- What questions do I have?
- What lead me to formulate the question?
- How did it connect with my own life?
- How did it connect to my subject matter?
- Did I get an answer?
- Did the answer help/hinder my research?
- Did it prove or disprove any assumptions I might have had? How?
- Was the answer complete?
- Why did I choose this approach? Did it work?



Post-research reflexive questions

- What is the best thing that I have achieved from this project?
- What is a particular thing that I found useful/exciting?
- What lead me to think this thing is great?
- Was there something I struggled with? If so, how did I resolve the struggle?
- What would I do differently?



Sources - JSTOR

Hufford, David J., 'The Scholarly Voice and the Personal Voice: Reflexivity in Belief Studies', *Western Folklore*, 54 (1995), 57-76.

Hufford states, 'the application of question ourselves and our scholarly "knowledgemakng" is vital to our work of explicating what we know about others. Discussion that presents our reflections on our encounters and experiences will provide a "more accurate sense of where we are because it will always require us to tell how we got there.' pp 74.

Also the Researching Contemporary Cosmologies text book

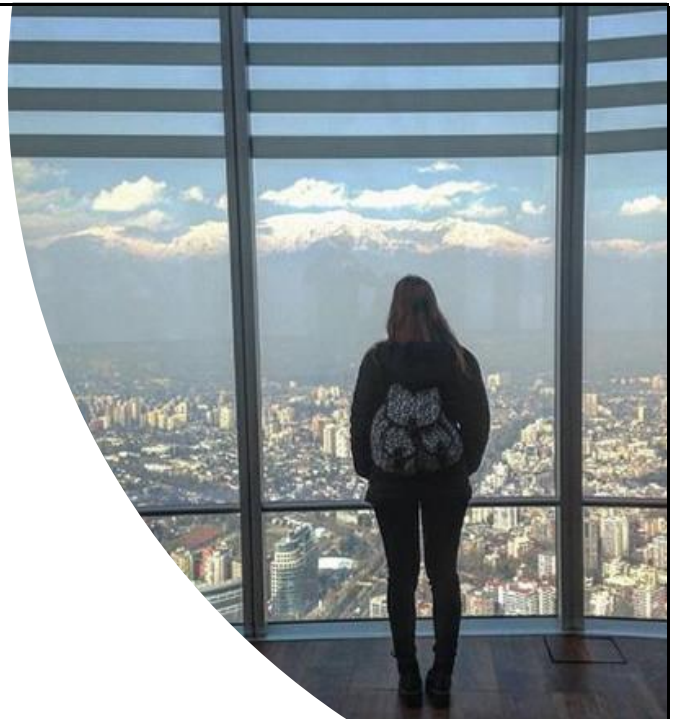
Hennink, Monique M., Inge Hutter, and Ajay Bailey, *Qualitative research methods* (Los Angeles ; London: SAGE, 2011). p. 18-19 discuss some of the issues of Reflexive methodology

If you do not own this book think about buying it as you will need it for the compulsory module of RCC.

When you come to writing up your Sky Journal – Re read Chapter 11 of Hennink, Hutter and Bailey.

Observation Exercises

and readings



Two Hours – One Sky – Many Views!

Each week one student will present a 10 minute presentation on a two hour time spent observing the sky.

- This can be at any time of the day or night, or even dawns and sunsets.
 - Photograph or draw images
 - Reflect on how the sky is influencing your emotions or memories

Present your observation and reflections in a ten minute talk where you can, if you wish, use a Power Point or even video.

If you are not able to attend the seminar, then send your Power Point to the tutors who will present it on your behalf.



The Discussion

Each week one student will present a 10 minute presentation on a set text.

The list of readings is on Moodle



Heavenly Discourses (AHAN7024)

Welcome to this module on Heavenly Discourses.

The Heavenly Discourse Tutors are:

Dr Bernadette Brady - Module tutor email: b.brady@uwtsd.ac.uk

Dr Darrelyn Gunzburg - email: d.gunzburg@uwtsd.ac.uk

Dr Nick Campion - email: n.campion@uwtsd.ac.uk



VIDEO - Introduction to the Heavenly Discourse Module



The official module descriptor for Heavenly Discourses- Please ignore the assignment information in this 2012 PDF



2018 Module Timetable



Seminar list with discussions and readings - 2018



Required Text for this Module

2 May Week 1 - Introduction	Lecture BB – Cultural uses of the sky. 30 min Lecture DG – The sky at agent. 30 min	Discussion- What is a Sky Journal what is reflexive writing 20 minutes	Discussion on watching the sky Set up the observation exercises and the discussions
9 May Week 2 – Calendars	Lecture BB – Calendars and Astrolabes 45 min DG – labours of the month	Student presents: Hesiod's works and Days – This is available in the online library - Loeb Library edition	Student observation
16 May Week 3 - Mapping	BB – Mapping the sky 45 min Lecture DG – Classical Globes with their sky myths 45 min	Student presents: Imagined Sky, Emily Urban's pp142-161 .	Student observation
30 May Week 4 Myths -	Lecture BB – sky myths 45 min Lecture DG – The unpacking of a sky myth 30 min	Student presents: Imagined Sky, Patrick McCafferty pp 23- 43.	Student observation
6 June Week 5 Sky and Buildings	Lecture DG – The sky in Architecture 45 min Lecture NC – Calendar houses 45 min,	Student presents: - Harris, section 8, Companions of the Sky pp 279-327.	Student observation
27 June Week 6 – Sky and Art and literature	Lecture DG – The sky in art 50 min Lecture BB – Egyptian ceilings 30 min	Student presents: Harris, section of chapter 6 , A flight: in cloudland. Pp 234- 247.	Student observation
18 July Week 7 Sky and Literature	Lecture NC – literature 45 min – Lecture DG – The Sky in Film. 30 min	Student presents: Harris, chapter 3 – 87-115, weather and Shakespeare.	Student observation
25 July Week 8 - Space	Lecture NC –Space- seeking it 30 min Lecture BB – coming from space. 20 min Lecture DG – Changing view of space 20 min	Student presents: Imagined Sky. Nordgren – At night's End. Pp 191-214.	Student observation

We will use the **CHAT forum** to establish who is doing what weeks for the observation exercise and also who will be doing which presentations.