

HPAN5012

Theory, Methods and Practice: Critical Perspectives in Anthropology

Prof Bettina Schmidt

Module Information for the Academic year 2019/2020

Block 1

Lampeter campus

Arts 3

CONTENT OF THE MODULE

The module provides an introduction to a variety of practical, conceptual, theoretical and methodological techniques to enable you to undertake anthropological study and fieldwork. We will explore key research approaches, including contemporary methods and theory, and develop skills to prepare you for conducting research in the field. The course will also give you the skills and knowledge to undertake dissertation work at level 6.

Credits: 20

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AIM(S)

- To introduce students to a range of anthropological research methods and theoretical approaches.
- To equip students with the relevant skills, competencies and confidence to undertake independent anthropological study and research, and fieldwork.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of various techniques for acquiring, handling, organising, interpreting and communicating different types of materials and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of various concepts, methodologies and approaches necessary for undertaking anthropological scholarship and research;
- critically evaluate different types of information, methodologies and theoretical approaches to produce coherent and logical observations and conclusions;
- define a research question and to plan and design a research project.

ASSESSMENT

1) Short Commentary

Select one of the books of the list below and write a **short commentary** (20%) that discusses ethnography as research method (1000 words) to be submitted via **Turnitin on 24 September 2019**.

Clifford, James and George E. Marcus (eds) 1986. *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Davies, Charlotte Aull, 1999. *Reflexive ethnography: a guide to researching selves and others*. London: Routledge 1999

Hine, Christine. 2000. *Virtual Ethnography*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Pink, Sarah. 2015. *Doing sensory ethnography*. 2nd edition. London: SAGE.

Pink, Sarah (ed.) 2013, *Doing Visual Ethnography: Images, Media and representation in Research*. 3rd ed, London: Sage.

Sluka, Jeffrey and Antonius Robben (eds). 2012 *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader: Second Edition*. Oxford: Blackwell

2) Research Portfolio

The Research Portfolio consists of 2 parts that together will be 80% of the module mark. Each item counts.

You need to select one research project that is based on ethnographic research (to be agreed in assessment workshop). You then need to design the project (e.g., research aims, access to field) and develop a proposal that discusses the chosen method and analytical framework. The presentation midway through allows you to gain feedback on the project before the proposal has to be finalised.

1. One of the following to be submitted via **Turnitin on 3 October 2019 and presented in class on 4th October 2019**.
 - a. A **PowerPoint presentation** about your selected research project (30% of the portfolio), including a slide with the bibliography of used material (worth 1000 words)
 - OR
 - b. A **Poster presentation** of your selected research project (30% of the portfolio), including a bibliography of used material (worth 1000 words)
 - OR
 - c. A **video presentation** of your selected research project (30% of the portfolio), including a bibliography of used material (worth 1000 words)

2. A **research proposal** (worth 3000 words) about your selected research project (70% of the portfolio) to be submitted via **Turnitin on 11 October 2019**.

Both parts are contributing towards ONE research project (80% of the module).

Please be aware that it is Faculty policy to submit all assignments via Turnitin.

Please be aware of a change to the Academic regulations:

If the specified word limit for an assessment has been exceeded, the following penalties apply: The penalty cannot take the work into the fail category.

- a. Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- b. Between 10% and 25% above the word limit – Deduction of 5 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- c. Between 25% and 50% above the word limit – Deduction of 10 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- d. 50% or more over length – Maximum mark of capped mark

Likewise, a failure to meet the maximum word limit may result in lower marks based on the quality of the work because they may not have included the necessary information required for the assessment and met the stated learning outcomes.

Also ensure that you download all submitted work, and marker's comments, from Moodle before June 15 2020. All such material will not be available to you after you graduate or progress to the next level of study.

Syllabus: [the order of topics has changed slightly]

Block 1, Room A3

Date	Title	Readings or other information
<u>Week 0</u>	Preparation Read the introduction of the core reading for this module	Reading: Sluka, Jeffrey and Antonius Robben. Fieldwork in cultural Anthropology: An Introduction. In: <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader: Second Edition</i> , ed. by J. Sulka and A. Robben. Oxford: Blackwell. <u>[a scanned copy is on Moodle]</u>

<u>Week 1</u>	Introduction	
Mo	General Induction Programme	No class
Tue	Welcome What is ethnographic research?	Introduction and overview of module and the assessments We will watch a short YouTube clip on ethnographic research as an introduction After the break we will discuss the reading by Sluka and Robben (scanned e-copy on Moodle) After the discussion of the reading we watch a short YouTube clip about ethnographic research in Trinidad as an example Discussion of the article about ethnographic research We will also watch the TED lecture on Ethnography by Ellen Issacs
Thu	The politics of ethnographic research Workshop: how to write a blog about a book? Discussion of assessment 1	We will ethnographic research from a critical perspective. How truthful is it? And what are the politics of ethnographic research? We will discuss Mathew Reisz's article and also look at Asad's critical position. Reading: Matthew Reisz. How truthful is ethnographic research? <i>THE Features</i>, 24 August 2018 (an e-copy is uploaded on Moodle) Further Reading: Asad, Talal. The Concept of Cultural Translation in British Social Anthropology. Chapter 5 in: <i>Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam</i> by Talal

		Asad. Baltimore: The John Hopkins Univ. Press, 1933, pp. 171-199. <u>[scanned e-copy is on Moodle]</u> [the chapter is a reprint of an article in <i>Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography</i>, ed. by James Clifford and George E. Marcus (1986)].
Fri	How native is a “native” anthropologist? And does gender matter?	We will continue the critical discussion of ethnographic research by discussing the position of the researcher (including gender). We will also look at the terms ‘field’ and ‘fieldwork’. What do they imply? And it is still accurate to use them? Reading: Kirin Narayan, How Native is a “Native” Anthropologist? <i>American Anthropologist</i>, New Series, Vol. 95, No. 3. (Sep., 1993), pp. 671-686 (e-copy is on Moodle) We will also watch the documentary “Anthropological fieldwork; a personal account in Nepal” by Alan MacFarlane about his fieldwork experience in Nepal https://youtu.be/jBZ108Ao2Ws
<u>Week 2</u>	Designing a project	
Mo	Research design: problems, cases and samples Workshop: How to select a research topic? What is your question? And how to develop a research proposal?	We will focus on your research and discuss how to design a project and outline it in a proposal. Reading: Martyn Hammersley and Paul Atkinson, research Design: Problems, cases and samples. In: <i>Ethnography: principles in practice</i>, by Martyn Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 20-40. <u>(a scanned copy is on Moodle)</u> Further Reading: George Marcus. ‘Introduction: Notes toward an ethnographic memoir of supervising graduate research through

		anthropology's decades of transformation'. In: <i>Fieldwork is not what it used to be</i> , ed. by James D. Faubion and George E. Marcus. Cornell, 2009, pp.1-34 <u>[scanned on Moodle]</u>
Tue	No class today Submission of first assessment via TurnItIn	There will be no class today. You have time to write the first assignment and plan the research proposal.
Thu	No class today	Time to work on your research project
Fri	Participating, observing, witnessing – what is the difference? Workshop: your research proposal	We will look at participant observation and other forms of attending and observing. The foundation will be the text by Deborah Reed-Danahay. Reading: Deborah Reed-Danahay: Participating, Observing, Witnessing. In: <i>The Routledge Companion to Contemporary Anthropology</i> , ed. by S. Coleman, S. B. G. Hyatt and A. Kingslow. New York/London: Routledge, 2017 <u>(e-copy is uploaded on Moodle)</u> We will also have time to discuss your selection of research topic and discuss perhaps even drafts of a proposal/poster.
<u>Week 3</u>	Postcolonial developments in ethnographic research	
Mo	Reflexivity and objectivity Workshop: how to prepare the presentation?	We will discuss the position of the researcher. Background will be chapter 1 of Charlotte Aull Davies's book on Reflexive Ethnography. Reading: Charlotte Aull Davies, <i>Reflexive Ethnography</i> , chapter 1. London: Routledge, 1999, pp.3-25. <u>(a scanned copy is on Moodle)</u>

Tue	Impact of the Writing Culture debate on ethnographic research Feedback about first assignment (blog)	We will discuss postcolonial changes of ethnographic research and focus on the impact of the writing culture debate. Reading: Clifford, James: Introduction: Partial Truth. In: <i>Writing culture: The poetics and politics of ethnography</i>, ed. by J. Clifford and G. Marcus. Berkley: Univ. Of California Press, 1986, pp. 1-26 <u>(a scanned copy is on Moodle)</u> There will be also time to look at drafts of the presentation and give feedback.
Thu	What is autoethnographic research? Submission PPTX handout/ poster / video via TurnItIn	Another development is autoethnographic research which we will discuss after reading Deborah Reed-Danahay's introduction. Reading: Deborah Reed-Danahay: Introduction. In: <i>Auto/Ethnography: Rewriting the Self and the Social</i>, ed. by D. Reed-Danahay. Oxford: Berg, 1997. <u>(e-copy uploaded on Moodle)</u> We will watch a YouTube clip as an example and then discuss the relevance. https://youtu.be/mp1aCl2L_po
Fri	PPTX presentations, Poster Presentations / video presentation	
Week 4	The Ethics of doing research in the 21st century	
Mo	Ethical implications when doing fieldwork	We will watch a short YouTube clip that presents a (constructed) example. https://youtu.be/E2Q3-OHyeUA This will lead to a discussion of a text by Levinson.

		Reading: Martin P. Levinson (2010). Accountability to research participants: unresolved dilemmas and unravelling ethics. <i>Ethnography and Education</i>, Vol. 5, No. 2, June 2010, pp. 193_207 (e-copy is on Moodle)
Tue	Multi-sited research Feedback about presentation	We will look at the work of Karen McCarthy Brown as an example of multi-sited research. We also will continue the discuss of ethics by discussing what can go wrong with research projects. Reading: Philippe Bourgois. Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons from fieldwork in Central America. In: <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader: Second Edition</i>, ed. by J. Sulka and A. Robben. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 288-297. There will be also time to discuss the proposals in draft form.
Thu	Digital ethnography	A new way to do fieldwork uses the internet. We will look at digital ethnography and also watch an interview with Sarah Pink (app. 45 min) who is one of the most prominent voices in this field. We will discuss whether this move distance ourselves from “the field” or opens up a new way of engaging with people. https://youtu.be/0ugtGbkVRFM Further reading: Douglas Harper, Talking about pictures: a case for photo elicitation. <i>Visual Studies</i> Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002 (e-copy is uploaded on Moodle)
Fri	Submission of proposal via TurnItIn (feedback will be sent	No class today so that you can focus on finishing your final assignment

	via Moodle, further feedback can be provided individually)	
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Reading list

Essential

Sluka, Jeffrey and Antonius Robben. 2012 "Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction" in <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader: Second Edition</i> , Antonius Robben & Jeffrey Sluka (eds), pp 1-35, Oxford: Blackwell Press
Malinowski, Bronislaw 1922 [2012] 'Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork' (from <i>Argonauts of the Western Pacific</i>) in <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader: Second Edition</i> , Antonius Robben & Jeffrey Sluka (eds) chapter 3, pp 69-81, Oxford: Blackwell Press
Appadurai, Arjun. 1988. 'Putting Hierarchy in its Place'. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> , 3(1), pp 36-49.
Clifford, James. 1986. 'Partial Truths', in <i>Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography</i> , edited by James Clifford and George E. Marcus. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Said, Edward. 1978. 'Introduction' in <i>Orientalism</i> , p 1-27. New York: Random House.
Caplan, P. 1988 Engendering knowledge: the politics of anthropology, <i>Anthropology Today</i> , 4(5): 8-12.
Bourgois, Phillippe, 1991 [2007] 'Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons from Fieldwork in Central America' in <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader</i> : Antonius Robben & Jeffrey Sluka (eds) chapter 21, pp 288-298, Oxford: Blackwell Press
Pink, Sarah 2007, 'Video in Ethnographic Research' in <i>Doing Visual Ethnography: Images, Media and representation in Research 2nd ed</i> , chap 4, pp 96-116, London: Sage
Marcus, G.E. 1995, Ethnography in the World System: The emergence of multi-sited ethnography', <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> . Vol. 24: 95-117
Narayan, Kirin. 2003 [1997]. "How Native is a Native Anthropologist?" in <i>Feminist Postcolonial Theory: A Reader</i> , Reina Lewis and Sara Mills (eds), pp 285-305. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Further Readings

Fabian Johannes. 1983. <i>Time and the Other</i> . New York. Columbia University Press.
Crapanzano, Vincent. 1986. 'Hermes' Dilemma: The Masking of Subversion in Ethnographic Description.' pp. 51-76 in <i>Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography</i> , edited by James Clifford and George E. Marcus. Berkeley: University of California Press
Geertz, C. 1988 <i>Works and lives: the anthropologist as author</i> . Stanford, California: Stanford University Press
Gregory, J. 1984. 'The Myth of the Male Ethnographer and the Woman's World' in <i>American Anthropologist</i> , 86:316-327
Burr, R. 2002. 'Shaming the Anthropologist: Ethical Dilemmas during and in the Aftermath of the Fieldwork Process, <i>Anthropology Matters</i> 4 (1).
Greenberg, Ofra, 2007. 'When They Read What the Papers Say We Wrote' in <i>Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader</i> , chapter 13, 194-201, Oxford: Blackwell Press
Marcus, George, 1998, 'On ideologies of reflexivity in contemporary efforts to remake the human sciences' in <i>Ethnography Through Thick and Thin</i> , p 181-202, Princeton, NJ: University of Princeton

Banks, M. 2001, <i>Visual methods in social research</i> , London; Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Van Dienderen, An. 2007. 'Performing Urban Collectivity: Ethnography of the production process of a community-based film project in Brussels', in <i>Doing Visual Ethnography: Images, Media and representation in Research 2nd ed</i> , chap 12, pp 247-272, London: Sage
Berg, U. D. 2008, Practical challenges of multi-sited ethnography' <i>Anthropology News</i> . 49(5) pp. 15-16
Candea, M. 2007, 'Arbitrary locations: in defence of the bounded field-site', <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> . 13(1) pp. 167- 184(18)
Flicker, Sarah, Dave Haans and Harvey Skinner. 2004. "Ethical Dilemmas in Research on Internet Communities", <i>Qualitative Health Research</i> , 14 (1): 124-134
Hine, C. 2000. <i>Virtual Ethnography</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
Wilson, S.M. and L.C. Peterson, 2002, 'The Anthropology on online communities' <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> . 31:449-67.
Amit, V. (ed) 2002, <i>Constructing the Field: Ethnographic Fieldwork in the Contemporary World</i> . London: Routledge.
Ellis, C. 2004. <i>The Ethnographic I: A Methodological Novel About Autoethnography</i> . Rowman & Littlefield Publishers
Jackson, A. (ed.) 1987. <i>Anthropology at Home</i> . London: Tavistock. See, especially, chapters by Haastrup and by Strathern.
Okely, J. and H. Callaway (eds), 1992, <i>Anthropology and Autobiography</i> , London: Routledge. See, especially, chapters by Hendry and by Okely.
Ryang, S. 2000. Ethnography or Self-cultural Anthropology?: Reflections on Writing About Ourselves. <i>Dialectical Anthropology</i> . 25 (3-4): 297 -320.
Strathern, M. 1985, 'Not a Field Diary 'Anthropology at Home' – with the Association of Social Anthropologists' <i>Anthropology Today</i> . Vol. 1, No. 3 (June 1985): 25- 26.