



Summer School July 6 – July 29, 2016

Visual Ethnography of Cityscapes

Applicants:

Outstanding students at last year BA, Master & 1st year PhD students in
Social/Political Sciences, Humanities & Fine Arts

The Netherlands Institute and the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival organize this intensive summer school in collaboration with Dutch and Greek universities.

About the course

Visual anthropology is becoming today an almost indispensable tool for anyone considering ethnographic research, visual analysis, studies of material culture, or critical engagements with cinema, photography and other forms of cultural display. By discussing the available methodological tools and critically reflect on their application within urban contexts, we are focusing on the visual ethnography of cityscapes. Students will be learning how to use audio-visual ethnographic methods in one of the most interesting urban landscapes of Europe and will be producing a short ethnographic film to be presented in a special section in the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival.

It is apparent that today the visual, in all its manifestations, possesses a special place in the "world" of anthropology and social sciences. Besides the internal changes in the academia and the technological developments that have reshaped the relationship of anthropology/ethnography with the use of audio-visual means, the field of visual anthropology has by now expanded both in terms of scope and institutional role.

These recent changes have not been thoroughly explored in the cityscapes of Greece. Although the social, political and economic transformations of the last years are being examined by social and political scientists, there is a need to add to our toolbox visual ethnography and visual anthropology in a more systematic way.

In our summer school we will focus on the theoretical position of the visual within social/political theory and on the practical use of audio-visual means in the ethnographic process. In examining the use of visual methods, the courses will focus on both historical and contemporary examples of ethnographic film and photography.

Structure of the course

From **July 6th until July 29th 2015** the seminars will run daily, at the NIA in Athens and will combine field research (film & photography production) in specific neighbourhoods of Athens and in selected locations. The seminar will focus on a general theoretical context in relation to visual anthropology/ethnographic methodology and contemporary approaches to field research in an urban setting with an overview of the current situation in Greece. Most days there will be one or two intensive sessions of three-five hours in total. In the sessions, the lecturers give an overview of the theory of visual anthropology/ ethnography with reference to key debates and a clear focus on cityscapes in Athens (Greece). During the course of the day students will be able to conduct their research and record ethnographically with cameras their topics of interest. In preparation to the seminar, all students are expected to have read the literature before arrival in Greece.

Aim

The aim of the seminar is to give students the experience of filming in a highly diverse and multi-layered urban setting, present the product (film) of their research in Athens in a special section in the Ethnographic film festival of Athens and have an overview of current debates and research topics in visual anthropology and ethnography. By participating and learning the filming and production process, the students gain some practical experience in the new context, use their skills, make new contacts and learn how to present their findings within wider local and global processes.

Method

During the seminar the students are expected to participate actively in all the courses and conduct a visual ethnographic field research. The small “ethnographic film project” might have a focus on life stories, specific neighbourhoods or social networks but it can expand to wider processes such as politics, migration or religion. In collaboration with local research groups, students will be able to come in contact with various people to discuss, interview and materialize their topics. Students will record and collect their material, which will be put together under the guidance of experienced staff in order to be presented at the end of our school and later into the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival. **Each student or group of students will be producing a short ethnographic film of approximately 10 minutes.** Audio-visual equipment will be available during the course.

Course requirements, language and evaluation

The course is available to outstanding students at last year BA, Master and first year PhD students. All lectures will be given in English. Students are required to participate actively in all the lectures and discussions during the courses. Their performance during courses, their final product (short film) and a text of 1500 words in relation to the choices made to the film will be evaluated by this year's appointed Review Committee. In addition all students will be encouraged to work further on their film in collaboration with the instructors and the Athens Ethnographic Film Festival. The deadline for submitting the film for this summer school special section of the festival is November 1st. The festival will be taking place from 24th till 27th of November.

Course period, dates and times

The course consists of 21 intensive days (two Sundays are free) with lectures and field research. The first course day will be on 6th July, the last on 29th, and the presentations of students will take place on 29th July 2016. Classes are daily usually between 10.00 to 15.00 (depending on courses) including lunch break. The rest of the time students will be conducting field research.

Participation – application

Only outstanding students at last year BA, Master and first year PhD students can participate in the seminar. Students can apply by sending an application form (which can be downloaded from the website of the institute, www.nia.gr) and a motivation letter on “visual ethnography of cityscapes” to Dr. Tryfon Bampilis at nia@nia.gr until the **25th of May 2016** and successful applicants will be notified by **3rd of June**. The number of participating students is limited (max. 30 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply.

Costs and subsidies

The total cost of the course is **550€** for all E.U. students. Overseas (non-EU) fees are **700€**. Students have a **discount** of the tuition fees if they do not intend to use the institute's accommodation (**200€**). For all other students **accommodation is free of charge**. Students are expected to cover their airplane return ticket from the Netherlands or country of origin to Athens and their lunch and dinner costs.

Accommodation

During the course the Institute will offer free accommodation to the participants/students in our guest rooms or in hotels in close proximity to the institute. Students will be sharing their rooms. The institute will publish contact details as soon as students are accepted. For more information regarding accommodation please contact the NIA secretary Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr or nia@nia.gr

Transport to the institute

On arrival to Athens you can commute to NIA by **Metro (Acropolis)**, taxi or bus. The institute is situated very near to the metro station called Acropolis, situated in the centre of the city, next to the areas of Plaka and Thision. For exact information on how to get to NIA please contact the secretary Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr

For more information regarding the course, please contact:

Dr. Tryfon Bampilis, Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) Tel.: + 30 210 9210760; Mobile: + 30 6976465830, email: trifonb@yahoo.com or nia@nia.gr
& **Dr. Konstantinos Aivaliotis**, Athens Ethnographic Film Festival, p.o.box 66009, 15501, Holargos, Athens, Greece, email: aivaliotis@ethnofest.gr or info@ethnofest.gr, Mobile: +30 6945 104788, www.ethnofest.gr

Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Winfred Van de Put (Director, Netherlands Institute at Athens)
- Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (Netherlands Institute at Athens)
- Dr. Konstantinos Aivaliotis (Athens Ethnographic Film Festival)
- Nikolaos Sfakianakis (Athens Ethnographic Film Festival)
- Prof. Mark Westmoreland (University of Leiden)
- Drs. Metje Postma (University of Leiden)

Bibliography

Obligatory readings

1. Banks, Marcus and Howard Morphy (1997). *Rethinking Visual Anthropology*, New Haven, London: Yale University Press.
2. Crawford, Peter and David Turton (ed.) (1992) *Film as Ethnography*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
3. Grimshaw, Anna (2001). *The ethnographer's eye: ways of seeing in modern anthropology*, Cambridge University Press.
4. Grimshaw, A. and Ravetz, A. (2009). *Observational Cinema: Anthropology, Film, and the Exploration of Social Life*, Indiana University Press.
5. MacDougall, David (2006). *The Corporeal Image, film, ethnography, and the senses*, Princeton University Press.
6. Taylor, Lucien (ed.) (1994) *Visualizing Theory: Selected Essays from V.A.R. 1990 1994*. London, New York: Routledge.

Extra suggested readings

7. Banks, Marcus and Ruby J. (ed.) (2011), *Made to Be Seen: Perspectives on the History of Visual Anthropology*, University of Chicago Press.
8. Barbash, Ilisa and Lucien Taylor (ed.) (1997). *Cross-Cultural Filmmaking: a handbook for making documentary and ethnographic films and video*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press.
9. De Brigard, Emilie [1975(2003)] 'The History of Ethnographic Film'. in *Principles of Visual Anthropology*, Paul Hockings (ed.) p.13-43, Berlin, New York: Mouton de Ruyter.
10. Grimshaw, Anna and Ravetz Amanda (2005). *Visualizing Anthropology*, Bristol: Intellect.
11. Loizos, Peter (1993). *Innovation in Ethnographic Film: From Innocence to Self-consciousness, 1955-85*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.



12. MacDougall, David (1992). "Photo Wallahs: an Encounter with Photography" in *Visual Anthropology Review* 8(2):96-100.
13. MacDougall, David (1998). *Transcultural Cinema*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
14. Nichols, Bill (1991). *Representing Reality: Issues and Concepts in Documentary*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
15. Pinney, Christopher (1997). *Camera Indica: the social Life of Indian Photographs*. University of Chicago Press.
16. Rollwagen, Jack (ed.) (1988). *Anthropological Filmmaking*, New York: Harwood.
17. Ruby, Jay (2000). *Picturing Culture: Explorations of Film & Anthropology*. Chicago, London: University of Chicago Press.
18. Russell, Catherine (1999). *Experimental Ethnography*. Durham, London: Duke University Press.
19. Taylor, Lucien. (1998). 'Visual anthropology is dead. Long live visual anthropology!' *American Anthropologist* 100.2: 534–537.