



# ETHNOGRAPHIC METHOD

**RESA:** Research School for Swedish Anthropology

**Ph.D. course open to:** All Ph.D. students in Anthropology or related disciplines

**Course title:** Ethnographic method

**Dates:** February 17 - March 24 2015

**Location:** Gothenburg

**Course coordinators/Teaching:** Dan Rosengren and Lisa Åkesson, Department of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

**Contact:** Please contact [lisa.akesson@globalstudies.gu.se](mailto:lisa.akesson@globalstudies.gu.se) ASAP if you plan to take part.

**Organization and examination:** During the first meeting the course is introduced followed by a lecture presenting a brief overview of the development of ethnographic field methods. Meeting 2 consists of a number of accounts of field experiences from anthropologists who work in different kinds of fields with different methodological approaches. Meeting 3-7 are organized as seminars where the participants are expected to orally present short papers (2-3 pages) related to the respective themes. These papers shall discuss the course literature and bring up the following points:

- Some central methodological strategies/perspective in the literature.
- A brief critical discussion of these strategies/perspectives in relation to other approaches.
- A description of how these strategies/perspectives relate to the student's plans for fieldwork.

As the course is intense, we recommend you to get acquainted with the literature before the course starts.

## Schedule:

### 1. Introductory lecture

Tue 17 Feb 13.15-15.00 Room E509

- Presentation of the course: content, purpose, structure, reading instructions, teachers, and participants (Dan Rosengren and Lisa Åkesson).
- Principal characteristics and historical development of the ethnographic method (Dan Rosengren)

### 2. Key experiences and challenges in different fieldworks

Presentations by researchers at the department:

Cecilia Ekström	Feb 17	15.30-16.30	Room E509
Marita Eastmond	Feb 18	13.30-14.30	Room E509
Staffan Appelgren	Feb 18	15.00-16.00	Room E509
Maria Gonzalez	Feb 24	11.00-12.00	Room E509

### **3. Seminar: Participant observation, interviews and ethics (Dan R.)**

**Tue 24 Feb 13.15-15.00 Room E509**

American Anthropological Association. 2007 [1998]. Code of Ethics. In *Ethnographic Fieldwork. An Anthropological Reader*, ed. by Antonious Robben & Jeffrey Sluka, pp. 325-330.

Barley, Nigel. 1983. *The Innocent Anthropologist. Notes from a Mud Hut*. Harmondsworth: Penguin. (190 p.)

Ellen, Roy. 1984. *Ethnographic Research. A Guide to General Conduct*, chapter 6: Ethics in relation to informants, the profession and governments, pp. 133-154. London: Academic Press.

Gudeman, Stephen & Alberto Rivera. 1990. *Conversations in Colombia*. Ch. 1: Conversations, pp. 1-17. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Johnson, Allen & Ross Sackett. 2000. Direct Systematic Observation of Behavior. In *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*, ed. by H. Russell Bernard, pp. 301-331.

Rubenstein, Steven L. 2004. Fieldwork and the Erotic Economy on the Colonial Frontier. *Sign: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 29: 1041- 1071.

Savage, Jan. 2000. Participative Observation: Standing in the Shoes of Others? *Qualitative Health Research*, 10(3): 324-339.

### **4. Seminar: Contextualization and case studies (Dan R.)**

**Tue 3 March 13.15-15.00**

Dilley, Roy. 1999. Introduction. The Problem of Context. In *The Problem of Context*, ed. by Roy Dilley, pp. 1-46. New York & Oxford: Berghahn.

Flyvbjerg, Bent. 2006. Five Misunderstandings About Case-study Research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 12(2):219-245.

Mitchell, J. Clyde. 1983. Case and Situation Analysis. *Sociological Review*, 31(2):187–211.

Rubenstein, Steven L. *Alejandro Tsakimp. A Shuar Healer in the Margins of History*. Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press.

### **5. Seminar: Reflexivity and fieldnotes (Lisa Å.)**

**Tue 10 March 13.15-15.00 Room E509**

Clifford, James. 1986. Introduction: Partial truths, in *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography* 1-27.

Davies, Charlotte Aull. 1999. Introduction, in *Reflexive ethnography: A guide to researching selves and others*. Routledge.

Emerson, Fretz and Shaw. 2011. *Writing ethnographic fieldnotes*. University of Chicago Press (selected parts).

## **6. Seminar: Life histories and collaborative ethnography (Lisa Å)**

**Tue 17 March 13.15-15.00 Room C417**

Lassiter, Luke Eric. 2005. *Collaborative ethnography*. Univ of Chicago Press (152 p.)

Eastmond, Marita. 2007. Stories as lived experience: Narratives in forced migration research. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 20(2):248-264.

Behar, Ruth. 1993. *Translated woman: Crossing the border with Esperanza's story*. Beacon Press (342 p)

## **7. Seminar: Fieldwork in a globalized and complex world (Lisa Å.)**

**Tue 24 March 13-15 Room E509**

Marcus, George. 1995. Ethnography in/of the world system: The emergence of multi-sited ethnography. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 95-117.

Faubion, James & George Marcus. 2009. *Fieldwork is not what it used to be: Learning Anthropology's method in a time of transition* (Introduction + at least one of the chapters in part 1)

Candea, Matei. 2007. Arbitrary locations: In defence of the bounded field-site. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 13:167-184.

Hage, Ghassan. 2005. A not so multi-sited ethnography of a not so imagined community. *Anthropological Theory* 5(4):463-475.

Garcia, A.C., Standlee, A.I., Bechhoff, J. & Cui, Y. (2009) "Ethnographic Approaches to the Internet and Computer-mediated Information" in *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 38(1):52-84.

### **Optional**

Miller, Daniel and Jolynna Sinanan (2014) *Webcam*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Miller, Daniel. 2011. *Tales from Facebook*. Cambridge: Polity Press.