

T.: ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS IN A SELECTED RESEARCH FIELD, MODUL 2, WINTER TERM 2016/17
“READING ETHNOGRAPHY AND DOING AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN A
TRANSNATIONAL CONTEXT”

COURSE DURATION: 27TH OCTOBER 2016-10TH FEBRUARY 2017

CLASS TIMINGS: DO. 27.10.16, 12PM-2PM, STU 105 (2.10) INSTITUT FÜR ETHNOLOGIE; FR. 4.11.16, 10AM-5PM, STU 105 (2.10) INSTITUT FÜR ETHNOLOGIE AND FRIDAY, 10.2.17, 10AM-12PM, STU 105 (2.10) INSTITUT FÜR ETHNOLOGIE. **PLEASE BRING YOUR LAPTOP FOR THE ON CAMPUS MEETINGS!**

Tutorial Description: While doing ethnography we use ourselves, our senses and the body as a research tool. But what does this actually mean? And how does this actually feel? You are going to explore these questions through engaging in different activities and completing various assignments that include reading, writing, drawing, taking a photograph, recording a video or a soundscape, remembering, imagining, discussing and interacting with your fellow students and us, your lecturers, either in the classroom or online. I facilitate the tutorial together with Natalie Gies-Powroznik, whom you can contact whenever you face any technical problems during the e-learning part of the tutorial on Learnweb.

Our first meeting takes place offline on 4th of November to discuss some basic theoretical concepts concerning ethnographic methods (‘(auto-)ethnography’, ‘narrative’, ‘ethical challenges’ and ‘(self-)reflexivity in social anthropology’) and to watch Sarah Polley’s autobiographic documentary *Stories We Tell*. From then onwards the tutorial will continue online, because I am going to leave to and stay at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur in India for the rest of the winter term. You choose two ethnographies from a particular area: ‘Hospital Ethnography’, ‘Community Psychiatry’, ‘Mad Stories’, ‘Addiction’, ‘Corruption and Bureaucracy’ or ‘Transgender’. After you read through these two ethnographies you complete an e-learning tutorial on ‘Reading Ethnography’ until the 13th of January 2017. It is based on Paloma Gay y Blasco’s and Huon Wardle’s ‘How to Read Ethnography’ and guides you systematically in exploring and understanding central aspects of ethnographic writing by drawing comparatively on the two ethnographies by way of example.

From the 16th of January 2017 onwards you start to interact with MPhil and PhD students from TISS. In transnational working groups you complete three thematic online workshops that draw predominantly on an autoethnographic approach. Here you are encouraged to explore different kinds of ethnographic documentation as verbally describing, drawing, taking photographs, videotaping or recording soundscapes. Further through evaluating and commenting on each other’s projects you engage in, develop and practice different levels of (self-)reflexivity. Reflexivity is inevitable if we want to do ethical, methodologically valid and epistemologically insightful (auto)ethnography: As any other human being we experience the world by our mind-body being immersed in it. But additionally we take our time to reflect on these experiences in order to recognize, objectify and theorize about the beliefs, patterns and categories that structure our and other’s perceptions. On the one hand this helps the researcher to learn something valuable about him-/herself and the socio-cultural environment she/he was socialized in. On the other hand reflecting on our experiences in the field also tells us something about ‘the other’ we encounter during fieldwork. Furthermore it is important to be aware and critically reflexive on one’s own positionality in the ethnographic field to be able to resolve ethical challenges or conflicts during fieldwork.

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (Workload: on campus/online 8+22hrs/private study 180hrs), optional tutorial of module 2.

Requirements: 1) Attend the tutorial sessions on 4th of November 2016 and 10th of February 2017, 2) Work through the e-learning class on 'Reading Ethnography' until the 13th of January 2017 and 3) Complete three online workshops on 'Doing Autoethnography' until the 10th of February 2017.

Course material: All readings and additional materials for our class you find on Learnweb (<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Learnweb/Learnweb2>): 'READAIATC-2016_2'

SESSIONS:

1st Session, 27th October, 12pm-2pm *Introduction*

PART I (OFFLINE): ETHNOGRAPHY AND AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

2nd Session, 4th November, 10am-5pm *(Auto-)Ethnography and the narrative construction of reality*

Movie: **Polley, Sarah** (2012): *Stories We Tell*, 104 minutes

Reading

Blasco, Paloma Gay y; Wardle, Huon (2009): *How to Read Ethnography*. London [u.a.]: Routledge. ('Introduction: the concerns and distinctiveness of ethnography', pp. 1-12)

Ellis, Carolyn (1999): 'Heartful Autoethnography'. *Qualitative Health Research* 9: 669-683. (DOI: 10.1177/104973299129122153)

Ellis, Carolyn; Adams, Tony E. & Bochner, Arthur P. (2010): 'Autoethnography – An Overview'. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research* 12 (1, Art. 10): 40 paragraphs. (<http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs1101108>)

PART II (ONLINE): READING ETHNOGRAPHY

Reading

Blasco, Paloma Gay y; Wardle, Huon (2009): *How to Read Ethnography*. London [u.a.]: Routledge. ('Introduction: the concerns and distinctiveness of ethnography', pp. 1-12)

3rd + 4th Session, until 18th November *Reading Ethnography*

5th Session, until 25th November *Comparison: the ethnographic outlook*

6th Session, until 2nd December *People in Context/Relationships and meanings*

7th Session, until 9th December *Narrating the immediate/Ethnography as argument*

8th Session, until 16th December *The setting and the audience/Positioning the author*

23rd December 2015-6th January 2016 Christmas Holidays

9th Session, until 13th January

Big conversations and patterns of commitment

PART III (ONLINE): DOING AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

10th Session, 16th-22nd January

Getting to know each other

11th Session, 23rd-29th January
(drawing and photography)

Workshop 1: *The socio-cultural significance of objects*

12th Session, 30th-3rd February
(video and tape recording)

Workshop 2: *The patterns and meanings of everyday lives*

13th Session, 4th-9th February
(autoethnographic writing)

Workshop 3: *A self-reflexive exploration of a biographic life event*

PART IV (OFFLINE): FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

14th Session, 10th February, 10am-12pm

Concluding session

ETHNOGRAPHIES:

Group A: Hospital Ethnography

Addlakha, Renu. "Deconstructing Mental Illness – An Ethnography of Psychiatry, Women, and the Family". New Delhi: Zubaan, 2008.

Luhrmann, Tanya M. "Of Two Minds – The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry". New York: Knopf, 2000.

Group B: Community Psychiatry

Nakamura, Karen. "A Disability of the Soul – An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan". Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013.

Brodwin, Paul. "Everyday Ethics – Voices From the Front Line of Community Psychiatry". Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Group C: Mad Stories

Dongen, Els Van. "Walking Stories – An Ethnography of Mad People's Work with Culture". Purdue University Press, 2006.

Pinto, Sarah. "Daughters of Parvati – Women and Madness in Contemporary India". Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.

Group D: Addiction

Knight, Kelly Ray. "addicted.pregnant.poor". Durham and London: Duke University Press Books,

2015.

Charles, Molly; Nair, K.S.; Britto, Gabriel. "Drug Culture in India – A Street Ethnographic Study of Heroin Addiction in Bombay". Jaipur, New Delhi: Rawat Publications, 1999.

Group E: Corruption and Bureaucracy

Gupta, Akhil. "Red Tape - Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India". Durham, NC [u.a.]: Duke Univ. Press, 2012.

Graeber, David. "The Utopia of Rules – On Technology, Stupidity, and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy". Brooklyn [u.a.]: Melville House, 2015.

Group F: Transgender

Valentine, David. "Imagining Transgender – An Ethnography of a Category". Durham [u.a.]: Duke Univ. Press, 2007.

Nanda, Serena. "Neither Man nor Woman – The Hijras of India". Belmont, Calif: Wadsworth Pub. Co, 1990.