



– Institute's Colloquium –

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A Hunter's Sense of Landscape: A Phenomenological Approach to Sensory Anthropology and Anthropological Filming

Drawing on my ongoing fieldwork with German hunters since 2014, I explore an often overlooked aspect of hunting, the waiting before the kill. I introduce this phenomenon with my short film *The Beauty of Hunting* which essentially shows scene after scene of waiting; nothing much happens. And nevertheless, this is what hunting is about – most of the time. Hunting may culminate in an act of killing but something important happens before. It is the sheer endless waiting in a state of heightened awareness and observation I call *vigilance*, i.e. a consistent, active and multisensory engagement with one's surroundings, *a way of being alive to the world* that manifests in minute adjustments of movement, posture, gestures, weapon handling, eye ball motion, etc., always being drawn by the *possibility* of an animal being out there somewhere.

In this state of vigilance, hunters often feel immersed in the landscape and weatherworld around them, becoming part of their surroundings, part of a world of rain, trees and mud. It is this *sense of immersion* that complements the *sense of anticipation* for the animal and that together make up the cardinal structure of hunting experience in this case.

The short film uses atmospheric scenes without narration/narrative to draw the viewer deeper into this double-sense of immersion and anticipation. It aims to create an opening for viewers to join in the bodily and sensual experience of the hunter and thereby to begin to comprehend *how it is like to hunt*. The film thus tries to *evoke* rather than represent or merely document hunting practices. In terms of filming, my phenomenological approach suggests to follow the lines of action, in a 'joining-with' guided by previously sensitized skilled vision.

Wednesday, 11th January 2017

4-6 p.m.

Institute of Ethnology

Stuttstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Everybody is welcome!