Ethnographic fieldwork methodology: approaches, tools and ethics

A course within the Research School in Peace and Conflict and the Marie Curie Initial Training Network 'Transnational Migration, Citizenship and the Circulation of Rights and Responsibilities' (TRANSMIC).

Oslo 11–13 February 2015

Readings

Obtaining the readings

Please follow the instructions that were e-mailed to you for accessing the readings electronically. One publication is not included in the electronic collection: Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. All but one chapter in this book is on the reading list, and participants should therefore acquire the entire book. (It is available electronically as a Kindle book; you do not need a Kindle device but can download the app for your tablet or desktop).

The electronic readings include *some* chapters of the following books; the remaining chapters are recommended, and participants might wish to obtain the books in full: (1) Charmaz, K. (2006*) Constructing Grounded Theory. A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*. London: Sage. (2) Emerson, R.M., Fretz, R.I. and Shaw, L.L. (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (3) Saldaña, J. (2009) *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. London: Sage.

General background

African Studies Association (2005) *Ethical Conduct in Research and Other Professional Undertakings in Africa* (5 pages).

Charmaz, K. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory. A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*. London: Sage. Chapter 1, An invitation to grounded theory (12 pages)

Gupta, A. and Ferguson, J. (1997) 'Discipline and practice: "The field" as site, method, and location in anthropology.' in Gupta, A. and Ferguson, J. (eds) *Anthropological locations: Boundaries and grounds of a field science*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1-46 (46 pages).

Gupta, A. (2014) 'Authorship, research assistants and the ethnographic field.' *Ethnography,* 15(3):394-400 (7 pages).

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 1, What is ethnography? (19 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 10, Ethics. (21 pages)

Middleton, T. and Pradhan, E. (2014) 'Dynamic duos: On partnership and the possibilities of postcolonial ethnography.' *Ethnography,* 15(3):355-374 (20 pages).

Savin-Baden, M. and Howell Major, C. (2010) 'Introduction. The uncertainty of wisdom.' in Savin-Baden, M. and Howell Major, C. (eds.) *New Approaches to Qualitative Research: Wisdom and Uncertainty*. Abingdon: Routledge. (5 pages)

[140 pages in total]

1. Research design and access

Research design

Bloor, M. and Wood, F. (2006) *Keywords in Qualitative Methods*. London: Sage. Theoretical saturation. (2 pages)

Essed, P. and Nimako, K. (2006) 'Designs and (Co)Incidents: Cultures of Scholarship and Public Policy on Immigrants/Minorities in the Netherlands.' *International Journal of Comparative Sociology,* 47(3-4):281–312 (32 pages).

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice,* 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 2, Research design: problems, cases, and samples. (21 pages)

Horst, C. (2009) 'Expanding Sites: The Question of Depth Explored.' in Falzon, M.A. (ed.) *Multi-Sited Ethnography: Theory, Praxis and Locality in Contemporary Research.* Farnham: Ashgate, 119-134 (16 pages).

Accounts of methodology and design – four examples

Dreby, J. (2010) *Divided by borders. Mexican migrants and their children.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Appendix A. Research design. (11 pages)

Levitt, P. (2001) *The Transnational Villagers.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Appendix B. Methodology. (5 pages)

Menjívar, C. (2000) *Fragmented Ties. Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Crossing boundaries: a personal note on research. (3 pages)

Thai, H.C. (2008) *For Better or For Worse. Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy.* Piscataway: Rutgers University Press. Appendix A. Reflections on methodology. (18 pages)

Access and informed consent

Adler, P.A. and Adler, P. (2001) 'The Reluctant Respondent.' in Gubrium, J.F. and Holstein, J.A. (eds) *Handbook of Interview Research* Thousand Oaks: Sage, 515-531. (17 pages)

Feldman, M.S., Bell, J. and Berger, M.T. (2003) *Gaining Access. A practical and theoretical guide for qualitative researchers.* Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. Chapter 1, Finding informants (11 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice,* 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 3, Access. (22 pages)

Miller, T. and Bell, L. (2002) 'Consenting to what? Issues of access, gate-keeping and 'informed' consent.' in Mauthner, M., Birch, M., Jessop, J. and Miller, T. (eds) *Ethics in Qualitative Research.* Thousand Oaks: Sage, 54-67. (14 pages)

Mitchell, A. (2013) 'Escaping the "Field Trap": exploitation and the global politics of educational fieldwork in "conflict zones".' *Third World Quarterly,* 34(7):1247-1264 (18 pages).

Shenton, A.K. and Hayter, S. (2004) 'Strategies for gaining access to organisations and informants in qualitative studies.' *Education for Information,* 22:223-231. (11 pages)

Tyldum, G. (2011) 'Ethics or access? Balancing informed consent against the application of institutional, economic or emotional pressures in recruiting respondents for research.' *International Journal of Social Research Methodology.* Pre-publication version, DOI 10.1080/13645579.2011.572675. (12 pages)

[213 pages in total]

2. Interviews and participant observation

Buscatto, M. (2011) Using ethnography to study gender, in Silverman, D. (ed.) *Qualitative Research,* 3rd Edition. London: Sage. (18 pages)

Charmaz, K. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory. A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis.* London: Sage. Chapter 2, Gathering rich data (19 pages)

Gobo, G. (2011) Ethnography, in Silverman, D. (ed.) *Qualitative Research,* 3rd Edition. London: Sage. (20 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice,* 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 5, Oral accounts and the role of interviewing. (24 pages)

Kitzinger, J. and Barbour, R. (1999) Introduction: the challenge and promise of focus groups, in Barbour, R. and Kitzinger, J. (eds) *Developing Focus Groups Research. Politics, Theory and Practice.* London: Sage. (20 pages)

Michell, L. (1999) Combining focus groups and interviews: telling how it is; telling how it feels, in Barbour, R. and Kitzinger, J. (eds) Developing Focus Groups Research. Politics, Theory and Practice. London: Sage. (11 pages)

Miller, J. and Glassner, B. (2011) The "inside" and the "outside": Finding realities in interviews, in Silverman, D. (ed.) *Qualitative Research,* 3rd Edition. London: Sage. (18 pages)

[130 pages in total]

3. Relationships and risks in the field

Al-Mohammad, H. and Peluso, D. (2012) 'Ethics and the "rough ground" of the everyday: The overlappings of life in postinvasion Iraq.' *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory,* 2(2):42-58 (17 pages).

Carling, J., Erdal, M.B. and Ezzati, R. (2014) 'Beyond the insider–outsider divide in migration research.' *Migration Studies,* 2(1):36-54 (19 pages).

Duncan, M. and Watson, R. (2010) Taking a stance. Socially responsible ethics and informed consent. in Savin-Baden, M. and Howell Major, C. (eds.) *New Approaches to Qualitative Research: Wisdom and Uncertainty*. Abingdon: Routledge. (10 pages)

Feldman, M.S., Bell, J. and Berger, M.T. (2003) *Gaining Access. A practical and theoretical guide for qualitative researchers*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. Chapter 5, Exiting: ending the relationship (4 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 4, Field relations. (34 pages)

Hammond, L. (2011) Four layers of silence: counterinsurgency in northeastern Ethiopia, in Cramer, C., Hammond, L. and Pottier, J. Researching Violence in Africa. Leiden: Bril. (18 pages)

Hoffman, D. and Tarawalley, M. (2014) 'Frontline collaborations: The research relationship in unstable places.' *Ethnography,* 15(3):291-310 (20 pages).

Lee-Treweek, G. and Linkogle, S. (2000) Putting danger in the frame, in Lee-Treeweek, G. and Linkogle, S. (eds.) *Danger in the Field. Risk and Ethics in Social Research*. London and New York: Routledge. (18 pages)

Pottier, J. Hammond, L. and Cramer, C. (2011) Navigating the terrain of methods and ethics in conflict research, in Cramer, C., Hammond, L. and Pottier, J. Researching Violence in Africa. Leiden: Brill. (22 pages)

Viterna, J. (2009) Negotiating the muddiness of grassroots field research: Managing identity and data in rural El Salvador, in Huggins, M. and Glebbeek, M. (eds.) Women Fielding Danger. Negotiating Ethnographic Identities in Field Research. Plymouth: Rowman and Littlefield. (30 pages)

Wood, E. (2006) The ethical challenges of field research in conflict zones. Qualitative Sociology 29: 373-386 (14 pages)

[206 pages in total]

4. Language, note-taking and recording

Borchgrevink, A. (2003) 'Silencing language. Of anthropologists and interpreters.' *Ethnography,* 4(1):95-121. (27 pages)

Bujra, J. (2006) 'Lost in Translation? The Use of Interpreters in Fieldwork.' in Desai, V. and Potter, R.B. (eds) *Doing Development Research* Thousand Oaks: Sage, 172-178. (7 pages)

Carling, J. (2012) 'Collecting, analysing and presenting migration histories.' in Vargas-Silva, C. (ed.) *Handbook of Research Methods in Migration*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 137-162 (26 pages).

Emerson, R.M., Fretz, R.I. and Shaw, L.L. (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2, In the field: participating, observing and jotting notes. (22 pages)

Emerson, R.M., Fretz, R.I. and Shaw, L.L. (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 5, Pursuing members' meanings. (35 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 7, Recording and organizing data. (18 pages)

Hochschild, A., Banaszynski, J., Franklin, J. and Talese, G. (2007) 'To tape or not to tape.' in Kramer, M. and Call, W. (eds) *Telling True Stories*. New York: Plume, 28-30. (3 pages)

[134 pages in total]

5. Coding and analysing fieldwork data with NVivo

Charmaz, K. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory. A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*. London: Sage. Chapter 3, Coding in grounded theory practice (30 pages)

Charmaz, K. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory. A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*. London: Sage. Chapter 1, Memo-writing (24 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 8, The process of analysis. (33 pages)

Saldaña, J. (2009) *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. London: Sage. Chapter 1, An introduction to codes and coding (31 pages)

Saldaña, J. (2009) *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. London: Sage. Chapter 2, Writing analytic memos (13 pages)

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6. Writing and representing fieldwork data

Abu-Lughod, L. (1991) 'Writing against Culture.' in Fox, R. (ed.) *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press, 137-162 (26 pages).

Behar, R. (2011) 'Believing in Anthropology as Literature.' In Waterston, A. and Vesperi, M.D. eds, *Anthropology off the Shelf. Anthropologists on Writing*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 106-116. (11 pages)

Benham K. (2007) 'Hearing our subjects' voices. Quotes and dialogue.' in Kramer, M. and Call, W. (eds) *Telling True Stories*. New York: Plume, 104-107. (4 pages)

Cayley, R. (2011) 'Eight steps towards better academic writing'. Excerpts from *Explorations of Style*, Rachael Cayley's Blog about Academic Writing, January–March 2011. (7 Pages)

Dickerson D. (2007) 'Hearing our subjects' voices. Keeping it real and true.' in Kramer, M. and Call, W. (eds) *Telling True Stories*. New York: Plume, 107-109. (3 pages)

Emerson, R.M., Fretz, R.I. and Shaw, L.L. (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 7, Writing and ethnography. (42 pages)

Goodall, H.L. (2000) *Writing the New Ethnography*. Lanham: Altamira Press. Chapter 5, The ethics of writing ethnography. (21 pages)

Hammersley, M, and Atkinson, P. (2007) *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 3rd Edition. Abingdon: Routledge. Chapter 9. Writing ethnography. (18 pages)

Hennink, M., Hutter, I. and Bailey, A. (2011) *Qualitative Research Methods*. London: Sage. Chapter 11, Writing qualitative research. (26 pages)

Middleton, T. and Cons, J. (2014) 'Coming to terms: Reinserting research assistants into ethnography's past and present.' *Ethnography,* 15(3):279-290 (12 pages).

Weiss, R.S. (1994) *Learning from Strangers. The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press. Chapter 7, Writing the report. (24 pages)

Zinsser, W. (2006) *On Writing Well*. New York: Collins. Chapter 12, Writing about people: the interview. (16 pages)

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