

ANTH5020
Anthropological Field Methods
Fall 2019



Time: Thursday, 6:30 - 9:15 pm

Venue: NAH11

Lecturer: Dr. Ju-chen Chen 陳如珍 (juchen@cuhk.edu.hk)

Office hour: Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Course Description:

How do anthropologists conduct research? What distinguishes as anthropological research from other kinds of research? How do field methods shape anthropological knowledge production? How does the writing process frame and redefine a project? What are the strength and limitation of anthropological field research? Anthropological fieldwork starts from one's desire to know an unfamiliar world out there and is made possible by one's determination to step out of your comfort zone. This course is designed to introduce you to anthropology through learning about its research methods. You will read texts on anthropological research methods, fieldworkers' reflections on their experience and also a few ethnographic writings. Through various assignments, you will acquire hands-on experience in data-collecting techniques, including participant observation and interviews. In the last part of the course, we will focus on the writing-up process and reflect on the use of anthropological field methods in the contemporary world of global connections.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to

- deepen their understanding of anthropology and anthropological knowledge production,
- employ and further explore anthropological research methods and data collecting

- techniques,
- evaluate the quality of an anthropological research project, and
- enhance their critical reading of ethnography.

Readings:

This course uses various articles and book chapters. All required materials are available on Blackboard.

However, we will read several chapters from the following books. You are encouraged to acquire a copy for your reference.

Bernard, H. R. (2011) *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*.

Emerson, R. M., R. I. Fretz, et al. (2011) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*.

Sluka, J. A. & Antonius C. G. M. Robben (2007) *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*.

Requirement and Assessment:

This **seminar** course is discussion intensive. You are expected to finish all required readings (marked with an asterisk *) beforehand and participate actively in class discussion.

Class participation	10%
In class methods exercises and short writing assignments	50%
Final report or research proposal	40%

Participation marks reflect your engagement in lectures. While the quality of a student's comments matters, what is even more critical is whether you have prepared for the class and actively engaged in the discussion.

Methods Exercise and Short Writing Assignments: We will conduct multiple methods-related exercises in class and do short writing assignments. These exercises aim at helping you get hands-on research experience and also to prepare you for your final report or research proposal. Details will be further explained in class.

Final Report or Research Proposal: By the end of the course, you can choose to write a final paper or submit a research proposal. 1) *Final report:* Choose a methods-related topic you are interested in and write a critical reflection paper about it. (Word limits: 2500 words in English and 5000 words in Chinese). 2) *Research Proposal:* Submit a research proposal that explains your research question, relevance to anthropology, methods, training, and contribution. The course adopts the Wenner-Gren Foundation model of proposal writing. More details will be explained later. (Length: approximately 3000 words in English and 6000 words in Chinese). **Due: 6 Dec.**

***Formats and other requirements:** 1) Please use double-spaced, font size 12 or larger, and standard margins. 2) All writings (except for those done in class) must be submitted to VeriGuide (https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jsp). An assignment without a signed declaration from VeriGuide will not be graded.

***Extra reminder about essay writing:** A good essay is a concise one with a clear thesis or argument. It shows your curiosity, creativity, and organizational skills. As long as it is succinct, the length of it is not a top concern.

Course Schedule

Week 01 (Sep. 5): Introduction: Anthropologists and their Knowledge Production

Syllabus and course overview

No reading due

Week 02 (Sep. 12): History, Fieldwork, and Ethnography

*Malinowski, B. (1922) "Introduction: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Enquiry." In *Argonauts of the Western Pacific: An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea*. Pp. 1-25.

*Sluka, J. A. & Antonius C. G. M. Robben (2007) "Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 1-28.

*Wolcott, H. F. (2005) "Ch2: Fieldwork as Art?" In *The Art of Fieldwork*. Pp. 15-24.

Spradley and McCurdy (1974) "Ch1: Culture and Contemporary World." In *Conformity and Conflict*. Pp. 1-11.

Film/Video: *A Man Called 'Bee': Studying the Yanomamo*. By Napoleon A. Chagnon and Timothy Asch. Watertown, Mass.: Documentary Educational Resources. 2001(1974). 43 mins.

Film/Video: *An anthropological introduction to YouTube*. Presentation at the Library of Congress, June 23rd, 2008 by Michael Welsh

Week 03 (Sep. 19): "The Real Life of An Anthropologist in the Field"

*Barley, Nigel (1983) "Ch1: The Reason Why," "Ch2 Be Prepared," "Ch3 To the hill," & "Ch4 Honi soit qui Malinowski." In *The Innocent Anthropologist: Notes from a Mud Hut*. Pp. 7-36.

*陳如珍 (2019) "田野中的圓滿：你那個研究還沒做完嗎?" 出自：《*反田野：人類學異托邦故事集*》. 237-272

*蔡晏霖、趙恩潔 (2019) "反田野，返田野：給這一輪田野盛事的備忘錄" 出自：《*反田野：人類學異托邦故事集*》. 7-26.

*Behar, Ruth (1996) "Ch1. The Vulnerable Observer" and "Ch6: Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart." In *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart*. Pp. 1-33 & 161-177.

Malkki, Lisa H. (2007) "Tradition and Improvisation in Ethnographic Field Research." In *Improvising Theory: Process and Temporality in Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 162-188.

Exercise 1: Problem definition

Week 04 (Sep. 26): From Idea To Project

*Wolcott, H. F. (2005) "Ch4: Fieldwork versus (Just) Being in the Field." In *The Art of Fieldwork*. Pp. 57-78.

*Maxwell, J. A. (1996) "Ch.1: A Model for Qualitative Research Design," "Ch.2: Purposes: Why Are You Doing this Research" & "Ch.4: Research Questions: What Do You Want to Understand?" In *Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach*. Pp. 1-24 & Pp. 49-62.

- *Bernard, H. R. (2011) "Ch.3: Preparing for Research." In *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pp. 54-81.
- Becker, H. S. (1986) "Ch.8: Terrorized by the Literature." In *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book or Article*. Pp. 135-149.
- Przeworski A. & F. Salomon (1988) "On the Art of Writing Research Proposals." Social Science Research Council. www.ssrc.org
- Anonymous (n.d.) Instruction of the Wenner-Gren Foundation. <http://www.wennergren.org/programs/application-procedures/project-description-questions>

Exercise 2: Problem definition (editing and revision)

Week 05 (Oct. 3): Participant Observation I: Rapport

- *Sluka, J. A. (2007) "Fieldwork Relations and Rapport: Introduction." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Pp. 121-125.
- *Agar, Michael H. (1980) "Ch.3: Who Are You to Do This?" In *The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography*. Pp. 41-62.
- *Bernard, H. R. (2011) "Ch.12: Participant Observation" In *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pp. 256-290.
- Spradley, J. P. (1980) "Ch.2: Doing Participant Observation." In *Participant Observation*. Pp. 53-62.

Exercise 3: Participant observation plan (4 weeks)

Week 06 (Oct. 10): Participant Observation: Collecting and Reflecting

- *DeWalt, K. M. and B. R. DeWalt (2002) "Ch.1: What is Participant Observation," "Ch.3: Doing Participant Observation: Becoming a Participant," & "Ch.4: Doing Participant Observation: Becoming an Observer." In *Participant Observation: a Guide for Fieldworkers*. Pp. 1-15, Pp. 35-66, and Pp. 67-82.
- *Emerson, R. M., R. I. Fretz, et al. (1995) "Ch.1: Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research" and "Ch.2: In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes." In *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Pp. 1-38.
- Bernard, H. R. (2006) "Ch.13: Field Notes and Database Management" & "Ch.14: Direct and Indirect Observation." In *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pp. 291-305 & 306-336.

Exercise 4: Fieldnote writing and editing

Week 07 (Oct. 17): Interview

- *Rapport, Nigel (2012) "Ch.1: The Interview as a Form of Talking-Partnership: Dialectical, Focussed, Ambiguous, Special." In *The Interview: An Ethnographic Approach*. Pp. 53-68.
- *Hockey, Jenny and Martin Forsey (2012) "Ch.2: Ethnography Is Not Participant Observation: Reflections on the Interview as Participatory Qualitative Research." In *The Interview: An Ethnographic Approach*. Pp.69-88.
- *Bernard, H. R. (2011[1995]) "Ch.8: Interviewing I: Unstructured and Semistructured." In *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pp. 156-186.
- DeWalt, K. M. and B. R. DeWalt (2002) "Ch.7: Informal Interviewing in Participant Observation." In *Participant Observation: a Guide for Fieldworkers*. Pp. 120-140.

Exercise 5: Unstructured and semi-structured interview

Week 08 (Oct. 24): Visual Materials: Senses and Representation

- *Mead, Margaret (2003) "Visual Anthropology in a Discipline of Words." In *Principles of Visual Anthropology*. Pp. 3-12.
- *Collier, John Jr. and Malcolm Collier (1986) "Ch.1: the Challenge of Observation and the Nature of Photography," "Ch.2: The Camera in the Field," "Ch.3: Orientation and Rapport," "Ch.17: Finding Patterns and Meaning." In *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method*. Pp. 5-28; 195-202.
- *Rouch, Jean with Dan Georgakas, Udayan Gupta, and Judy Janda (2003) "The Politics of Visual Anthropology." In *Cine-Ethnography*. Pp. 210-228.
- Film/Video:** Selections of clips from "Jaguar (1967)," "Jean Rouch – Premier Film 1947-1991 (1991)" and "Jean Rouch & His Camera in the Heart of Africa (1979)."
- Film/Video:** Project Syria: An Immersive Journalism Experience by Nonny de la Peña https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN_nbHnHDI4

Week 09 (Oct. 31): Ethics

- *Sluka, Jeffrey A (2012) "Introduction [to Fieldwork Ethics]." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 299-305.
- *Bourgois, Philippe (2012) "Confronting Anthropological Ethics: Lessons from Fieldwork in Central America." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 318-330.
- *American Anthropological Association (2012) "Code of Ethics." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 359-364.
- *Dettwyler, Katherine A. (2013) "Dancing Skeletons." In *Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa*. Pp. 139-148.
- Berreman, G. D. (2012) "Ethics versus 'Realism' in Anthropology." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 331-352.
- Shay, Christopher
2009 "Should Anthropologists Go to War?" *Time* December 13., <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1947095,00.html>
- Allen, Charlotte
1997 "Spies Like Us: When Sociologists Deceive Their Subjects." *Lingua Franca* Nov., 30-39.

Exercise 6: Assess AAA case studies of ethical dilemmas (<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ch3.htm>)

* Reflection of participant observation plan (exercise 3) due in class

Week 10 (Nov. 7): No class. Graduation Day.

Week 11 (Nov. 14): Gender

- *DeWalt, K. M. and B. R. DeWalt (2011) "Ch.6: Gender and Sex Issues in Participant Observation." In *Participant Observation: a Guide for Fieldworkers*. Pp. 99-108.
- *Markowitz, Fran (1999) "Sexing the Anthropologist: Implications for Ethnography." In *Sex, Sexuality, and the Anthropologist*. Pp.161-174.
- *Williams, Walter L. (2012) "Ch.6: Being Gay and Doing Fieldwork." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Pp. 114-123.
- *Ashkenazi, Michael and Robert Rotenberg (1999) "Cleansing Cultures: Public Bathing

and the Naked Anthropologist in Japan and Austria." In *Sex, Sexuality, and the Anthropologist*. Pp.92-116.

Warren, Carol A. B. (1988) "Ch. 2: Gender and Fieldwork Relationships." In *Gender Issues in Field Research*. Pp. 12-41.

Week 12 (Nov. 21): Writing-up

*Emerson, R. M., R. I. Fretz, et al. (1995) "Ch.3: Writing Up Fieldnotes I: From Field to Desk," "Ch.4: Writing Up Fieldnotes II: Creating Scenes on the Page," "Ch.7: Writing an Ethnography." In *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Pp. 39-107 & 169-210. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Golstein, Daniel (n.d.) Grant Proposal, Fieldnotes, and The Spectacular City.

Bernard, H. R.

2006 Ch. 17: "Qualitative Data Analysis I: Text Analysis." In *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Pp. 463-521. Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.

Week 13 (Nov. 28): Wrap Up: The Impacts and Limits of Anthropological Methods

*Clifford, J. and G. E. Marcus, Eds. (1986) "Introduction: Partial Truths" & "Afterward: Ethnographic Writing and Anthropological Careers." In *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Pp. 1-26 & Pp. 262-266.

*Stoller, Paul (2009) "Prologue: The Power of the Between." In *The Power of the Between: An Anthropological Odyssey*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press. Pp. 1-11.

*Wolf, M. (1992) "Ch.5: Writing Ethnography: The Poetics and Politics of Culture." In *A Thrice-Told Tale: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Ethnographic Responsibility*. Pp. 127-142.

Abu-Lughod, Lila (1993) "Introduction." In *Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories*. Pp. 1-44. Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oxford, University of California Press.

Rabinow, P. (2007 (1977)) "Preface to the Thirtieth Anniversary Edition." In *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco*. Pp. xi - xxv. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, University of California Press.

Stoller, Paul (2015) "In Defense of Ethnography." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-stoller/in-defense-of-ethnography_b_8028542.html accessed 1 September 2015

Singal, Jesse (2015) "The Internet Accused Alice Goffman of Faking Details In Her Study of a Black Neighborhood. I Went to Philadelphia to Check." <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/06/i-fact-checked-alice-goffman-with-her-subjects.html>

Accessed, 1 September 2015.

* *Final Report or Research Proposal due on 6 December at NAH407*

Policies

Late Submission: Late submission will suffer a fraction of a grade per day. For example, an A will become an A-.

Academic Honesty: You are required to cite properly (guidelines: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/tstyle.doc>) and please refer to the university website (<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/index.htm> and <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/index.htm> and <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/index.htm>)

www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/referencing_avoidingplagiarism1.pdf) to avoid plagiarism.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use mobile phones, laptops, or tablets in class. Browsing websites, checking social media, and texting or answering phone calls distract not only you but your classmates and me! Research has also shown that taking notes by hands is much better than on your laptop. See: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/08/note-taking-low-tech-often-best>

Recording: No (video and audio) recording is permitted in this class. Please pay proper respect to your classmates and me. We would all like to ensure a space of free and open discussion of ideas. If you have any needs for recording, please consult me first.