

Internship at Festival Office

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From July to August 2017, I worked as internship in Festival Office, LCSD. My duty was to assist International Arts Carnival, in which included (1) preparing performance materials before and during the performance days; (2) managing stage discipline; (3) facilitating communication between artists and Hong Kong locals. Instead of merely describing my job nature and daily routines, I would like to summarize my internship in reflection of what I have learnt in Anthropology.

I. Doing something that is not in-field: ask and learn



During my internship, the greatest challenge to me was to learn and do all the things that I was not familiar at all. For example, I need to do prepare the seating plan, name tags and welcoming gifts for the festival opening ceremony. Compared to my other fellow colleagues who major in stage and performance management, my major does not provide me great “cultural capital” to assist and smoothen the preparation process. However, as anthropologist, asking questions is one significant investigation skills during ethnography. Such skills remind me no matter what job I am working for, regardless of its concordance with my academic study, never hesitate to ask questions and learn from the others, for the others could have more experience and in-field knowledge.



Me putting signs in front of the performance venue



Me preparing name tags,tickets and seating plan

II. Participant Observation



Another challenge for me is teamwork. During my anthropological study, group work is not that much emphasized. Instead, personal perception are more required for further interpretation and analysis.

However, show production is totally different- it is teamwork emphasized. For the artists are doing the performance, the backstage would keep the venue and props clean and well-prepared. Despite opposition to the order sometimes, I have to obey the whole group as we work as a team.

Compared to my fellow colleagues, I do not have much experience of groupwork. Hence, when accomplishing the task, it is difficult to compromise and cooperate with my groupmates in quick pace. However, such experience makes me think of the meanings of “participant” observation- participation should be socially involved, to the extent of living in no difference with the informants. In turn, from the daily involvement, observation with more in-depth data can be done.

Moreover, working as backstage, my work nature is mainly assistance based. Viewing the progress of the performance as backstage, the meanings of the show is different- the happiness and satisfaction is not merely on arts appreciation, but also sharing the joy of the shows.



My groupmates and I



Working as backstage



Viewing the performance as backstage

Conclusion



I would like to show my gratitude to Anthropology Department, CUHK and Festival Office, LCSD, for giving such valuable working experience. On one hand, I could participate in non-academic field workplace; More importantly, the working experience could allow me rethink the anthropological theories that I have learnt in these few years.