

Week 1 - Syllabus Day / Brief Introduction & History of Interviews, Ethnographies, Digital Ethnographies, and Trace Methods ++ Ethics maybe?

Reading:

A brief history of interviewing as method:

Platt, J. (2012). The history of the interview. *The SAGE handbook of interview research: The complexity of the craft*, 2, 9-27. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412973588.n4>

A brief history of ethnography as method:

Boellstoroff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C. Taylor, T.L. 2012. "Three Brief Histories" (Chapter 2 in *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: a handbook of method*). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. pp. 13-28

Helpful, but not required - especially for people who are coming from a non-research MA or a quant-heavy research background. This serves as a primer on vocabulary and terms students may encounter in reading ethnographies.

Barker, Chris. 2012. *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*. 4th edition. Los Angeles, CA: Sage, Chapter 1

Homework: n/a

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Week 2 - You, as the researcher; You, in your research

Reading:

Standpoint/Situated Knowledges:

Who are you? How does who you are impact and/or inform your research?

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000 (1990). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 1 & 2.

Haraway, Donna. 1988. Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective. *Feminist Studies*. Autumn, 1988, Vol. 14. No. 3, pp 575-599

What is research within the world around you?

Nelson, Alondra. 2020. Society After Pandemic. *ITEMS - Insights from the Social Sciences*. <https://items.ssrc.org/covid-19-and-the-social-sciences/society-after-pandemic/>

Additional Reading:

Standpoint theory in practice:

Etsuko Kinefuchi & Mark P. Orbe (2008) Situating Oneself in a Racialized World: Understanding Student Reactions to Crash through Standpoint Theory and Context Positionality Frames, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*,

Louis, K. S., & Barton, A. C. (2002, September). Tales from the science education crypt: A critical reflection of positionality, subjectivity, and reflexivity in research. In *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research* (Vol. 3, No. 3).

<https://doi.org/10.17169/fqs-3.3.832>

More perspectives on standpoint:

hooks, bell (1984). *From margin to center*. Boston, MA: South End Press.1, 70-90, DOI: 10.1080/17513050701742909

Homework:

Positionality: *This assignment is to reflect on who you are as a person and how this informs your thinking about your research, your research subjects, collaborators, and study participants and the relationships which may exist between you and them. Reflect on these questions and write up a brief (no more than 500 word) statement.*

Week 3 - Interviews

Reading:

Weiss, Robert. 1994. *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies* [Full Text online at SU Library] Chapters 3, 4, and 5

- CHAPTER 3: PREPARATION FOR INTERVIEWING
- CHAPTER 4: INTERVIEWING
- CHAPTER 5: ISSUES IN INTERVIEWING

Wengraf, Tom. 2001. *Qualitative research interviewing: Biographic narrative and semi-structured methods*. Sage. [Full Text online at SU Library]

A useful systematic methodological literature review that discusses potential limitations and ways around them. This article, further, draws from nursing as opposed to sociological, psychological, or anthropological grounding.

Kallio, H., Pietilä, A. M., Johnson, M., & Kangasniemi, M. (2016). Systematic methodological review: developing a framework for a qualitative semi-structured interview guide. *Journal of advanced nursing*, 72(12), 2954-2965. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.13031>

Sampling Concerns:

Small, Mario Luis. 2009. "How Many Cases Do I Need?: On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field Based Research." *Ethnography*. 10: 5-38.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1466138108099586>

Biernacki, Patrick and Dan Waldorf. 1981. "Snowball Sampling: Problems and Techniques in Chain Referral." *Sociological Methods and Research* 10:141-163.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/004912418101000205>

Watters, John K. and Patrick Biernacki. 1989. "Targeted Sampling: Options for the Study of Hidden Populations." *Social Problems* 36: 416-430. <https://doi.org/10.2307/800824>

Trost, J.E. 1986. "Statistically Nonrepresentative Stratified Sampling: A Sampling Technique for Qualitative Studies." *Qualitative Sociology* 9(1), Spring 1986.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00988249>

Saturation:

O'reilly, M., & Parker, N. (2013). 'Unsatisfactory Saturation': a critical exploration of the notion of saturated sample sizes in qualitative research. *Qualitative research*, 13(2), 190-197.

<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1468794112446106>

Bowen GA. Naturalistic inquiry and the saturation concept: a research note. *Qualitative Research*. 2008;8(1):137-152. doi:10.1177/1468794107085301

Constantinou, C. S., Georgiou, M., & Perdikogianni, M. (2017). A comparative method for themes saturation (CoMeTS) in qualitative interviews. *Qualitative Research*, 17(5), 571–588.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794116686650>

Nelson, J. (2017). Using conceptual depth criteria: addressing the challenge of reaching saturation in qualitative research. *Qualitative Research*, 17(5), 554–570.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794116679873>

Homework:

INTERVIEW SOMEONE ABOUT THEMSELVES

- Drawing on the assigned readings, draft a short (no more than 10-15 questions). Your task is to interview a classmate about themselves. Draw on advice from the readings in order to write these questions. Consider what you might want to learn about a stranger.

- Select a partner after you have drafted the interview protocol so as to ensure that your questions can be universally understood and answered. Don't pair with a friend, use this as a chance to know someone new in class!
- Interview your partner.
- Transcribe the interview and bring it with you to class.

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Week 4 - Analyzing Interview Data

Reading:

Grounded Theory:

Charmaz, K., & Belgrave, L. (2012). Qualitative interviewing and grounded theory analysis. *The SAGE handbook of interview research: The complexity of the craft*, 2, 347-365.

Content Analysis/Thematic Analysis:

Schreier, M. (2012). *Qualitative content analysis in practice*. Sage publications.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative research in psychology*, 3(2), 77-101.

How to develop a code book/coding scheme:

Weston, C., Gandell, T., Beauchamp, J. et al. Analyzing Interview Data: The Development and Evolution of a Coding System. *Qualitative Sociology* 24, 381–400 (2001).

<https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010690908200>

A note on rigor:

Rose K, Webb C. Analyzing Data: Maintaining Rigor in a Qualitative Study. *Qualitative Health Research*. 1998;8(4):556-562. doi:10.1177/104973239800800409

Narrative inquiry:

McCormack C. From Interview Transcript to Interpretive Story: Part 1—Viewing the Transcript through Multiple Lenses. *Field Methods*. 2000;12(4):282-297.

doi:10.1177/1525822X0001200402

List of potential analysis software

Excel

Printouts

Stickynotes

Atlas.ti - <https://atlasti.com/>

NVivo - <https://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo-qualitative-data-analysis-software/home>

MAXQDA - <https://www.maxqda.com>

Homework:

ANALYZE YOUR INTERVIEW DATA & WRITE A SHORT SUMMARY

- Pick a software/method from the readings/that was discussed in class and do an analysis on the interview you conducted the previous class. Think about how the method you selected can or cannot be useful for analysing your data.
- From your analysis, write a short (no more 1 page) analysis of the interview based on your observations.

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Week 5 - Ethnography (as method)

Reading:

What is ethnography?

Ethnography in/of the world system: the emergence of multi-sited ethnography." 1995. Annual Review of Anthropology 24: 95-117.

Katz, Jack. 1997. "On Ethnographic Warrants." Sociological Methods and Research 25:391-423.

Geertz, Clifford. "Thick description: Toward an interpretive theory of culture." Turning points in qualitative research: Tying knots in a handkerchief 3 (1973): 143-168.

What Ethnography is not:

Boellstoroff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C. Taylor, T.L. 2012. "Ten Myths about Ethnography" (Chapter 3 in *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: a handbook of method*). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Methodological Considerations:

Scott, S., Hinton-Smith, T., Härmä, V., & Broome, K. (2012). The reluctant researcher: shyness in the field. Qualitative Research, 12(6), 715–734. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794112439015>

"Person-Centered Interviewing and Observation." pp. 333-364, In H. R. Bernard (Ed.), Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology. 1998. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira.

<https://significantetro.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/h.-russell-bernard-handbook-of-methods-in-cultural-anthropology-1998.pdf>

Pink, S., & Morgan, J. (2013). Short-term ethnography: Intense routes to knowing. *Symbolic Interaction*, 36(3), 351-361. <https://doi.org/10.1002/symb.66>

Foley, Douglas E. (2001). Critical ethnography: The reflexive turn. Prepared for publication in *Ethnography*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications [At SU Libraries]

Homework:

OBSERVATION/ETHNOGRAPHY - Offline

- Go to a public place and pick a simple activity. This could be like watching people get coffee at the library, or observing people who climb the climbing wall at the Barnes Center. Pick a small, narrow thing and see how people do it, write down your observations.
- Write up your observations and bring them to class, prepared to discuss them.

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Week 6 - "The Field" (locating/situating within it)

Reading:

- *What is the field?*

Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson. 1997. "Discipline and Practice: 'The Field' as Site, Method, and Location in Anthropology." In *Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science*. University of California Press. Pp. 1-46.

Frömming, U.U., Köhn, S., Fox, S. and Terry, M., 2017. Digital environments: ethnographic perspectives across global online and offline spaces. transcript Verlag. Introduction.

- What is "field work"?

Goffman, Erving. 1989. "On Fieldwork." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 18: 123-32.

Rybas, Natalia & Gajjala, Radhika (2007). Developing Cyberethnographic Research Methods for Understanding Digitally Mediated Identities [33 paragraphs]. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 8(3), Art. 35, <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs0703355>.

Homework:

OBSERVATION/ETHNOGRAPHY - Offline

- Continue your observations following readings regarding the field. How does a better understanding of the field alter how you think about the space you're observing?
 - Reflect on this as you continue your observations,
 - Write down your thoughts on this question separately from your field notes.

- Draft a reflection on this ethnographic observation, what worked, what didn't? What surprised you?

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Week 7 - Online Ethnographies

Reading:

General Reference

Pink, S., Horst, H., Postill, J., Hjorth, L., Lewis, T., & Tacchi, J. (2015). *Digital ethnography: Principles and practice*. Sage. [Not Available at the SU Library, currently]

Papers:

Murthy, Dhiraj. 2008. "Digital Ethnography: An Examination of the Use of New Technologies for Social Research," *Sociology* 42: 837.

Coleman, Gabriella. 2010. "Ethnographic Approaches to Digital Media." *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 39: 1-16.

Some applications:

Hashtags:

Bonilla, Yarimar, and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. "#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States." *American Ethnologist* 42 (1): 4-17.

Images/Crowds:

Gürsel, Zeynep Devrim. 2017. "Visualizing Publics: Digital Crowd Shots and the 2015 Unity Rally in Paris." *Current Anthropology* 58 (S15): 135-148.

Location:

Anderson, J., Casas Saez, G., Anderson, K., Palen, L., & Morss, R. (2019, January). Incorporating Context and Location Into Social Media Analysis: A Scalable, Cloud-Based Approach for More Powerful Data Science. In *Proceedings of the 52nd Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*.] <http://128.171.57.22/handle/10125/59666>

Algorithms:

Seaver, N. 2017. Algorithms as culture: Some tactics for the ethnography of algorithmic systems. *Big Data and Society*. Vol 4. Issue 2. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951717738104>

Useful ethical considerations:

franzke, aline shakti, Bechmann, Anja, Zimmer, Michael, Ess, Charles and the Association of Internet Researchers (2020). Internet Research: Ethical Guidelines 3.0.

<https://aoir.org/reports/ethics3.pdf>

Ethics Guidelines for Internet-mediated Research. The British Psychological Society. 2017.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/ethics-guidelines-internet-mediated-research2017>

Principles of Professional Responsibility. American Anthropological Association. 2012.

<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>.

Homework:

AN ONLINE ETHNOGRAPHY

- Pick an online field site. This could be your facebook feed, your twitter feed, tumblr, a discord server, Slack, and complete a series of observations over multiple days. Try and observe the same behavior over the course of multiple days.
- Type up your observations and bring them to class.

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Week 8 - Virtual Worlds & Online Communities

Reading:

Gaining access:

Nardi, B. 2010. My Life as a Night Elf Priest: An Anthropological Account of World of Warcraft 2010. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, Prolog, and chapters 1 & 2 Available online at:

<http://www.digitalculture.org/books/my-life-as-a-night-elf-priest>

Observing Virtual Worlds and Online Communities:

Boellstorff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C. Taylor, T.L. 2012. "Chapter 5: Participant Observation in Virtual Worlds" in *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: a handbook of method*). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

(also Chapters 1&2 provide useful context here.)

Pink, Sarah and Morgan, Jennie. 2013. "Short term ethnography: intense routes to knowing." Symbolic Interactionism, 36(3) 351-361. <https://doi.org/10.1002/symb.66>

Boellstorff, Tom (2008). Community. In *Coming of Age in Second Life*. Pg 179-201

Susan L. Bryant, Andrea Forte, and Amy Bruckman. 2005. Becoming Wikipedian: transformation of participation in a collaborative online encyclopedia. In Proceedings of the 2005 international ACM SIGGROUP conference on Supporting group work (GROUP '05). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–10.

DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/1099203.1099205>

Homework: n/a

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Week 9 - Asynchronous Remote Communities

Reading:

A Guide:

MacLeod, Haley, Ben Jelen, Annu Prabhakar, Lora Oehlberg, Katie Siek, and Kay Connelly. "A guide to using asynchronous remote communities (ARC) for researching distributed populations." EAI Endorsed Transactions on Pervasive Health and Technology 3, no. 11 (2017).

Considerations:

Juan F. Maestre, Haley MacLeod, Ciabhan L. Connelly, Julia C. Dunbar, Jordan Beck, Katie A. Siek, and Patrick C. Shih. 2018. Defining Through Expansion: Conducting Asynchronous Remote Communities (ARC) Research with Stigmatized Groups. In Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Paper 557, 1–13. DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3174131>

Examples:

Arpita Bhattacharya, Calvin Liang, Emily Y. Zeng, Kanishk Shukla, Miguel E. R. Wong, Sean A. Munson, and Julie A. Kientz. 2019. Engaging Teenagers in Asynchronous Online Groups to Design for Stress Management. In Proceedings of the 18th ACM International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC '19). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 26–37. DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/3311927.3323140>

Annu Sible Prabhakar, Lucia Guerra-Reyes, Vanessa M. Kleinschmidt, Ben Jelen, Haley MacLeod, Kay Connelly, and Katie A. Siek. 2017. Investigating the Suitability of the Asynchronous, Remote, Community-based Method for Pregnant and New Mothers. In Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 4924–4934.

DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025546>

Juan F. Maestre, K. Cassie Kresnye, Julia C. Dunbar, Ciabhan L. Connelly, Katie A. Siek, and Patrick C. Shih. 2020. Conducting HCI Research with People Living with HIV Remotely: Lessons Learned and Best Practices. In Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–8. DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1145/3334480.3375202>

Homework:

FINAL PAPER:

- Research Question
- Proposed Abstract

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Week 10 - Analysing Ethnographic Data

Reading:

Boellstoroff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C. Taylor, T.L. 2012. "Chapter 10: Data Analysis" in *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: a handbook of method*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Snow, David A., Calvin Morrill, C., and Leon Anderson. 2003. "Elaborating Analytic Ethnography: Linking Fieldwork and Theory." *Ethnography* 4(2): 181-200.
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F14661381030042002>

Anselm Straus and Juliet Corbin. 1998. "Open Coding." In *Basics of Qualitative Research* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Emerson, Robert et al. 1995. "Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing." In *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* Chicago: University of Chicago

Homework:

ONLINE ETHNOGRAPHY/IN PERSON ETHNOGRAPHY

- Conduct analysis and coding based on coding method of your choice
- Draft analysis

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Week 11 - Trace methods

Reading:

**The* Paper*

Geiger, R.S., & Ribes, D. (2011). Trace ethnography: Following coordination through documentary practices. In Proceedings of the 2011 44th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS '11) (pp.1-10). Washington, D.C: IEEE Computer Society.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/224221205_Trace_Ethnography_Following_Coordination_through_Documentary_Practices

Article that traces evolution of trace methods, as well as how to use qual research techniques to “thicken” the data.

Latzko-Toth, G., Bonneau, C., & Millette, M. (2017). Small data, thick data: Thickening strategies for trace-based social media research. *The SAGE handbook of social media research methods*, 199-214. [Online @ SU Libraries]

Trace with other methods:

Participant Observation:

Hassman, K. D., Mugar, G., Østerlund, C., & Jackson, C. (2013). Learning at the seafloor, looking at the sky: The relationship between individual tasks and collaborative engagement in two citizen science projects.

A more practice-oriented approach from a researcher at Google: focuses on tools available to create some of the traces others analyze:

Haines, J. K. (2017, November). Towards Multi-Dimensional Ethnography. In *Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference Proceedings* (Vol. 2017, No. 1, pp. 127-141).

Sharma, S. A. R. I. K. A., Matt Willis, Jaime Snyder, C. Osterlund, and Steve Sawyer. "Using an ethnography of email to understand distributed scientific collaborations." (2015).

Ethnography For A Data Saturated World, Hannah Knox and Dawn Nafus, ed. (Selections)

Homework:

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Week 12: Analysing Trace Data

Reading:

On how to use Trace Data as an interview technique:

Dubois, E and Ford, H (2015) *Trace interviews: An actor-centered approach*. *International Journal of Communication*, 9. 2067 - 2091. ISSN 1932-8036

Homework

FINAL PAPER:

- Outline

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Week 13: Validity

Reading:

Howison, James; Wiggins, Andrea; and Crowston, Kevin (2011) "Validity Issues in the Use of Social Network Analysis with Digital Trace Data," *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*: Vol. 12 : Iss. 12 , Article 2.

DOI: 10.17705/1jais.00282

Available at: <https://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/vol12/iss12/2>

Homework:

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Week 14: Writing Up

Reading/Viewing:

One of the things that annoys me most as a writer is reading guides about how to do it. I've found that these videos are helpful in that they don't explain over-much while still providing useful information for a growing writer.

<https://www.anthrowrites.com/fieldnotefirstdraft>

<https://www.anthrowrites.com/writing-tips>

This piece could just as easily be used earlier in the class, but I think it draws an interesting connection between creative writing and academic writing in a way that doesn't try to create a clear distinction between them.

Besky, Sarah. 2015. "Can't Get There from Here? Writing Place and Moving Narratives." *Savage Minds / anthro{dendum}*. March 23.

<https://savageminds.org/2015/03/23/cant-getthere-from-here-writing-place-and-moving-narratives/>

Boellstoroff, T., Nardi, B., Pearce, C. Taylor, T.L. 2012. "Writing Up, Presenting and Publishing Ethnographic Research" (Chapter 11 in *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: a handbook of method*). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Emerson, Robert, Rachel Fretz and Linda L. Shaw. 2011. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Chapter 7] [At SU Libraries]

Homework:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312709359219>