



Course Code & Title	LISS227 Ethnography Workshop		
Convenor(s)	Dr Patrick Neveling, Queen Mary University of London		
Institution	QMUL	Department	LISS DTP
Academic Year	2023-24	Term	Spring
Number of Sessions	3	Length of Session(s)	2 Hours
Day, Date	Start : End	Room Location	
Wednesday 24 January 2024	10:00-12:00	Online	
Wednesday 31 January 2024	10:00-12:00		
Wednesday 7 February 2024	10:00-12:00		
Enrolment Link:	Available to book on SkillsForge from Tuesday 12th December 2023 . Click to log in and register: https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#he/dev/eventDetails;;em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=227; Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)		

Course Description:

This is a practical workshop, designed to give students the opportunity to gain some experience of conducting ethnographic research prior to their fieldwork or to use ethnography as one component in a mixed-methods research design. The sessions address methodological, practical, political and ethical questions that ethnographers are confronted with. We will discuss these questions in greater and greater depth as the course unfolds.

Students will have time to present and discuss their own research plans and designs. Between sessions, they will engage in a limited period of participant observation—a core component of all ethnographies—in a place of their choice and try their hand at producing a short ethnographic text. In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we consider options and research fields for online ethnographies as well. By the end of the workshop, students will have had the chance to experience some of the rewards and challenges of conducting participant observation and ethnographic writing in a friendly environment. They will also have an understanding of the historical emergence and development of ethnography as research and praxis. This includes an understanding of the manifold field sites that ethnography can open up both as a core research method and as one among several research methods. These workshops will also allow students to meet other interested, like-minded colleagues from across the DTP.

Course Outline:

Session 1: This will be an introduction to the theory and practice of ethnography with a particular focus on the variety of field sites and the politics of encounters in ethnographic research. We discuss the students' own plans for ethnographic research for this course and for their wider thesis projects.



Preparation for Session 2: Students will be required to conduct 3h of uninterrupted participant observation of a space/environment/practice (with the option to do this online) that is loosely related to their proposed area of research.

Session 2: Students will be asked to bring fieldnotes from their observations for discussion. We will reflect on their experiences, the type of knowledge that participant observation can produce, as well as practical, ethical and political challenges of ethnographic fieldwork.

Preparation for Session 3: Writing is a large part of “doing ethnography”. Students will be asked to write up a short ‘anecdote’ from their personal experience which speaks to their research interests.

Session 3: The third session will be dedicated to discussing ethnography as a methodology. We will discuss the students’ anecdotes, and how they felt about writing up personal experience for an audience.

This feeds into a discussion about the production of ethnographic knowledge in larger and longer-term research projects. Our focus is on the politics and ethics of the ethnographer—their praxis of ethnographic representation, authority, and positionality—and on the politics and ethics of actors within field sites shaped by past and present racialised and other capitalist exploitation. Based on this, we delve into the practicalities and ethics of short-term ethnography, the history of ethnography in social anthropology, and conclude with reflections on the pendulum moves between ethnography and writing as a politics of praxis.

Reading List:

Essential Reading:

Smith RJ and Hall T (2016) Pedestrian circulations: urban ethnography, the mobilities paradigm and outreach work. *Mobilities* 11(4): 498-508.

Smith G (2016) Ethnography in post-Franco Spain: the view of an outsider. *(con)textos, revista d'antropologia i investigació social* 6: 46-54.

Xiang B (2013) Multi-scalar ethnography: An approach for critical engagement with migration and social change. *Ethnography* 14(3): 282-299.

Recommended reading:

Agar MH (1996) *The professional stranger : an informal introduction to ethnography*. San Diego ; London: Academic Press.

Emerson, R. (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago University Press

Freidberg S (2001) On the Trail of the Global Green Bean: Methodological Considerations in Multi-site Ethnography. *Global Networks* 1(4): 353-368.

Lapegna P (2009) Ethnographers of the World United? Current Debates on the Ethnographic Study of Globalization. *Journal of World-Systems Research* 15(1): 3-24.

Livingston J. 2012. “The Other Cancer Ward”, Chapter 1 in *Improvising Medicine*, Durham and London, Duke University Press



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- Low, S.M. and Merry, S.E. (eds) (2010) 'Engaged anthropology: diversity and dilemmas', *Current Anthropology*, 51 (supplement 2): S203–S226.
- Marcus, G. E. (1995) 'Ethnography in/of the world system: The emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 24, pp. 95–117. doi: 10.1146/annurev.an.24.100195.000523.
- Michael, M. (2012) 'Anecdote' in *Inventive Methods: the Happening of the Social*. Ed. By C. Lury and N. Wakeford, London and New York: Routledge, 25-36
- Narayan, K. (1993) 'How native is a "native" anthropologist?', *American Anthropologist*, 95 (3): 19–32.
- Neveling P (2016) Beyond Sites and Methods: The Field, History, Global Capitalism. In: Coleman S, Hyatt S and Kingsolver A (eds) *Routledge Companion to Contemporary Anthropology*. London: Routledge, pp.72-91.
- Pink, S. and Morgan J. (2013) 'Short-Term Ethnography: Intense Routes to Knowing', *Symbolic Interaction* 36 (3): 351-361. doi.org/10.1002/symb.66
- Said, E. (1989) 'Representing the colonized: anthropology's interlocutors', *Critical Inquiry*, 15 (2): 205–25.
- Scheper-Hughes, N. 'Ire in Ireland'. *Ethnography* 1(1): 117-140
- Thieme, T. (2017) 'Navigating and Negotiating Ethnographies of Urban Hustle in Nairobi Slums', *City* 21 (2): 219-231.
- Van Maanen J. (2011) *Tales of the Field: On Writing Ethnography*, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press

FocaalBlog – Feature Sections. <http://www.focaalblog.com/features/>, for example:

Urban struggles: <http://www.focaalblog.com/features/urban-struggles/>

How Capitalists Think: <http://www.focaalblog.com/features/how-capitalists-think/>

Eligibility:

This course is suitable for students at an early stage of their PhD, particularly those who are planning to use ethnography, but have little practical experience or knowledge.

You must be a PhD student at either King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, or Imperial College London, using social science methodologies, and be based in a department that does not already offer this training. If you are not a LISS ESRC funded student, you must [register with us](#) first before enrolling via SkillsForge.

Pre course preparation:

If you would like to attend this workshop you will be required to participate in all three sessions and read all essential texts in advance. All students are asked to read the Gavin Smith and Biao Xiang texts. In addition, students are asked to browse the recommended feature section from *FocaalBlog* and to choose two more of their own recommended readings. Students can e-mail the course convenor for PDFs of texts they cannot access. Most importantly, students are asked to make time for preparations between sessions (participant observation and anecdote writing).

Number of students: 35



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Course readings are [available here](#).