ETHN 189 -- Community Organizations: Research and Collaboration
The AjA Project

Fall 2007

Instructor: Yen Le Espiritu
Office: Social Science Building 228
Phone: 858-534-5206
E-mail: yespiritut@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tues: 2:00-3:30; Thurs: 9:00-10:30

AjA Contacts:
Shin Takeda: stakeda@ajaproject.org
Bernadette Johnston: bjohnston@ajaproject.org
Ryan Smith: rsmith@ajaproject.org

Course Overview:

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of research and collaboration with community organizations. Students will have the opportunity to observe and reflect upon the participatory methodology of The AjA Project, a local nonprofit that teaches refugee and immigrant children to employ photography in telling stories about their culture, identity, experiences of displacement, and their acculturation process in the United States. Course participants will work individually with middle school students enrolled in The AjA Project’s after school participatory photography program at a local school. Participants will be assigned student partners, and will serve as mentors and collaborators for these students as they learn about the power of photography in self-expression and storytelling. They will have a unique opportunity to interact, support and collaborate with these students as they explore their cultural identity and experiences of displacement using photography. This course is open to UCSD Ethnic Studies students in junior or senior standing.

Sept. 27. Introduction
How to write fieldnotes (handout)

Week 1 — Oct. 2 & 4 — The AjA Project: Participatory Photography


**Week 2 – Oct. 9 & 11 – Whose Agenda Is It Anyway?**


**Week 3 – Oct. 16 & 18 – The Setting: School and Neighborhood**

Class presentations: Report on school and neighborhood. May work in groups.

**Week 4 – Oct. 23 & 25 – Dilemmas in Fieldwork**


**Weeks 5 & 6 – Nov 6 & 8 –Field Notes**

Assignment: Submit a sample of field notes and analysis/comments. The field notes should be about 5 pages followed by a page of your own commentary on the data, everything typed and double spaced.

**Week 7 – Nov. 13 & 15 – Immigrant and Refugee Youth**


**Week 8 – Nov. 20 – Writing the final paper**

**Week 9 – Nov. 27 & 29 – Outline of final papers due. Class presentation/discussion of outlines.**

**Week 10 – Dec. 4 & 6 – Preparing for the exhibit**

**Finals week – Exhibit**

Dec 5 - exhibit @ Melndez St Library
@ Market & Euclid
AjA Program Sites and Contact Info for UCSD Class

Orientation to AjA:
*Please choose an orientation day that works with your schedule:

Tuesday October 2\textsuperscript{nd}: 3:30-5:00 @ AjA Office [address below]
OR
Wednesday October 3\textsuperscript{rd}: 2:30-4:00

Program Sites:
*Please choose a group that works best for your schedule

\underline{GROUP A: Monday 2:30-4:00}
Crawford High School (CHS) GIRLS CLASS
4191 Colts Way
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 583-2500

Heading South on the 15, exit onto El Cajon Blvd. Turn LEFT onto El Cajon Blvd (heading East). Turn RIGHT onto 54\textsuperscript{th} Street (heading South). Turn LEFT onto Trojan (heading East). Turn RIGHT onto Sharron Place (heading South). The CHS parking lot will be on your Left, and the school just ahead of you.

\underline{GROUP B: Thursday 3:30-5:00}
Cajon Valley Middle School (CVMS) CO-ED
395 Ballantyne St.
El Cajon, CA 92021
(619) 588-3092

Heading EAST on 8, exit onto Magnolia St. Turn RIGHT onto Magnolia (heading South). Turn LEFT onto Madison street (heading East). Turn RIGHT onto Ballentynne, and CVMS will be on your left.

\underline{GROUP C: Wednesday 2:30-4:00}
Crawford High School (CHS) BOYS CLASS
4191 Colts Way
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 583-2500
Writing Fieldnotes

Fieldnotes should be written as soon as possible after leaving the fieldsite, immediately if possible. Plan to leave a block of time for writing just after leaving the research context.


* Date, time, and place of observation
* Specific facts, numbers, details of what happens at the site
* Sensory impressions: sights, sounds, textures, smells, tastes
* Personal responses to the fact of recording fieldnotes
* Specific words, phrases, summaries of conversations, and insider language
* Questions about people or behaviors at the site for future investigation

There are 4 major parts of fieldnotes:
1. Jottings: brief words or phrases written down while at the fieldsite. Intended to help us remember things we want to include when we write the full-fledged notes.
2. Description of everything we can remember about the occasion you are writing about - a meal, a ritual, a meeting, a sequence of events, etc. While it is useful to focus primarily on things you did or observed which relate to your research question, some amount of general information is also helpful. This information might help in writing a general description of the site later, but it may also help to link related phenomena to one another or to point out useful research directions later.
3. Analysis of what you learned in the setting. What themes can you begin to identify regarding your research question? What questions do you have to help focus your observation on subsequent visits? Can you begin to draw preliminary connections or potential conclusions based on what you learned?
4. Reflection on what you learned of a personal nature. What was it like for you to be doing this research? What felt comfortable and uncomfortable? In what ways did you connect with the students and teachers at the site, and in what ways didn't you? While this is extremely important information, be especially careful to separate it from analysis.

Source: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/anthro/CPIA/METHODS/Fieldnotes.html
Heading South on the 15, exit onto El Cajon Blvd. Turn LEFT onto El Cajon Blvd (heading East). Turn RIGHT onto 54th Street (heading South). Turn LEFT onto Trojan (heading East). Turn RIGHT onto Sharron Place (heading South). The CHS parking lot will be on your Left, and the school just ahead of you.

The AjA Project
5253 El Cajon Blvd
San Diego, CA. 92115
619.223.7001
www.ajaproject.org

Bernadette Johnston
Journey Program Manager
C: 619.952.4205
E: bjohnston@ajaproject.org

I-805 S
I-8 E
Fairmount Ave exit toward Mission Gorge Rd
Continue toward Fairmount Ave
Keep R @ the fork, follow signs for Fairmount Ave S & merge onto Fairmount Ave
Take ramp onto Montezuma Rd (East)
Turn R @ Collwood Blvd
Slight R @ 54th St
Turn R @ El Cajon Blvd

14.7 mi ~ about 21 mins

Office will be on the left-hand side of the street.