Kamala Visweswaran
OH T 1-2 pm/Mandeville cafe

Winter 2019

ETHN 202: ETHNOGRAPHY/QUALITATIVE METHODS

Mondays, 1 pm-3:50 pm SSB 103

Ethnography, the act of writing about or researching cultures has come a long way since it was enshrined in the anthropological monograph at the turn of the 20th century. In the 1950s and 1960s it traveled out of cognitive anthropology and as observational cognitive or computational ethnography helped to define the field of Human-Computer-Interaction (HCI). So-called thick data approaches are now seen as a corrective to big-data driven projects which provide thin accounts of human behavior. In the 1980s and 1990s, an experimental turn in Anthropology brought literary theory to the analysis and understanding of ethnography as a form of writing. The critiques of Marcus and Clifford's (1986) *Writing Culture* resulted in a return to the monograph, but also opened a space for visual, post-humanist, multispecies, literary and inter-disciplinary appropriations of ethnography. This course takes seriously the fact that we live in a world of global capital flows, and that ethnography—in its multi-sited, place-oriented, and meta-level forms, potentially stands as a challenge to, and productive site of engagement with it, using the tools of science studies, and critical race, feminist, disability, and sexuality studies. At the same time, it affords space for the experimental reconsideration of form by enabling works of cultural critique that are not necessarily ethnographies to be considered in relation to an ethnographic field.

Prerequisites: This class assumes familiarity with feminist, queer, critical race and disability studies.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Each session will involve 30 min of writing and the1 pg (500 word) exercise should be emailed to the instructor the end of the course meeting. These (8) exercises count for 20% of your grade but will not be graded each week; they serve as the basis for two pieces of flash ethnography (5-6 pgs) due February 18th, 2018 and March 18, 2018 (each 30% of your grade). Students are required to lead one discussion section and to actively participate in class (20%).

Course Format: 1.45 hour discussion; 15 min break; 1 hour writing and critique

After the break students will write for 30 min using a set exercise, then work in pairs to give and receive feedback. Students will write 2 exercises each on person, place, time, and event using a theoretical insight from the readings assigned that week. These writing exercises are the building blocks for the two pieces of flash ethnography due on Feb. 18 and Mar. 18, 2018. Students may consider submitting their piece of flash ethnography to the Anthropology and Humanism "Sudden Ethnography" section: https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/anhu.12175

Jan. 7

I. Introductions/Interviews
II. Visual Ethnography

Elvia Mendoza, "Nosotros Tambien Migramos" short film (13 min)

Maryam Kashani. "Signs of Remarkable History" "Best in the West" (3 min clips)

Reading:

E.Mendoza, "Clandestine Queerness"

M. Kashani. "The Audience is Still Present: Invocations" in Junaid Rana and S. Dualatzai (eds). *With Stones in Our Hands: Writings on Muslims, Racisms and Empire* (Minnesota, 2017)

Feminist Ethnography and Visual Ethnography (Recommended):

K. Visweswaran "Ethnography" in Lorraine Code. Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories

https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/v/visual-ethnography

http://www.qualitativeresearch.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1166/2575#g1

Jan. 14

2015 J. De León. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Sonoran Desert Migrant Trail*. University of California Press, Berkeley. Geisel, e-book

Recommended:

2018 J. De León. "The Photoethnographic Eye: Visualizing the Honduran Migrant Experience in Mexico." In *Out of Bounds: Photography and Migration*, edited by T. Sheehan, Routledge Press.

Jan. 21 NO MTG-MLK DAY

Jan 28

George Marcus, "Ethnography in and Of the World System" Annual Review of Anthropology. 24:95-117.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/2155931?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" in The Interpretation of Cultures" (Basic Books, 1973)
https://people.ucsc.edu/~ktellez/geertz1973.pdf

Roderick Crooks, Herstory Belongs to Everybody or The Miracle: A Queer Mobile Memory ProjectInterActions: *UCLA Journal of Education and Information Studies*
http://escholarship.org/uc/item/4d67f235

Roderick Crooks, One-to-One Program: Day 32 *Anthropology and Humanism*
10.1111/anhu.12144

Roderick Crooks,Critical Failure: Computer-Aided Instruction and the Fantasy of InformationIEEE Annals of the History of Computing 10.1353/ahc.2018.0017

Roderick Crooks, Times Thirty: Access, Maintenance, and Justice. *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 10.1177/0162243918783053

Feb 4

AnnaTsing. 2015. *The mushroom at the end of the world : on the possibility of life in capitalist ruins*. Princeton. Geisel, e-book

Recommended:
Anna Tsing et. al. 2018. *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene*. University of Minnesota Press. Geisel, e-book.

Feb 11
Mel Chen. 2012. Animacies. Durham: Duke. Ch. 1, Geisel, e-book

Stephan Helmreich. Sounding the Limits of Life. Durham: Duke. Ch. 5, 13 Geisel, e-book

Donna Haraway. 2016. Staying With the Trouble. Durham: Duke. Intro; Chs 1-3 Geisel, e-book

Feb 18 NO MTG-PRESIDENT'S DAY   *First assignment due*

Feb. 25 Karin Amimoto Ingersoll. *Waves of Knowing: A Seascape Epistemology* (Duke, 2016) Geisel, e-book

Recommended: Linda Tuhiwai Smith 2012. *Decolonizing Methodologies*. Zed.

Mar. 4

Nasser AbuFarha. *The Making of a Human Bomb*. Duke, 2012. Chs. 4-6; Geisel e-book.

Jasbir Puar. 2017. *The Right to Maim*, Duke. Geisel e-book. Chs, 3-4. Geisel e-book**.**

Mar. 11

Aimee Bahng. 2018 *Migrant futures : decolonizing speculation in financial times.* Duke. Geisel, e-book

FINAL/SECOND PAPERS DUE: MARCH 18, 2018

OF INTEREST:

Call for Participation

Datafication and Community Activism:
Redrawing the Boundaries of Research

A workshop to be held in the Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California
March 8 – 9, 2019
https://goo.gl/MXa7u1 <https://goo.gl/MXa7u1>

Organized by
Roderic Crooks (crooksr@uci.edu <mailto:crooksr@uci.edu>), Department of Informatics.
Yeshimabeit Milner, Executive Director, Data 4 Black Lives.

Datafication, "the transformation of social action into online quantified data, thus allowing for real-time tracking and predictive analysis" (van Dijck, 2014, p. 198) describes both the spread of data-intensive technologies and a concomitant ideological stake in a politics of knowledge. This transformation ignores the ways that algorithms, models, and data schema can serve as vehicles for bias and further oppression (Noble, 2018). Data-intensive technologies of "automated inequality" in their various forms, though originally developed in the context of scientific and commercial environments, are being deployed relentlessly in racialized, minoritized, and precariatized communities: in provision of public services by government agencies, in bail decisions by the criminal justice system, in threat assessment by law enforcement, and in many other sites (Eubanks, 2017).

Activists have responded to these threats through organizing, direct action, and, in many cases, reports and documents that support grassroots activism. (e.g., Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, 2018). Community-based researchers have connected state-of-art technologies to long histories of oppression and violence in communities of color. Writing by activists educates community members and policymakers about the harms data capture can pose and, at the same time, offers more meaningful alternatives to the presumed benefits of technological access in minoritized communities (Crooks, 2017).

What are the possibilities for technology researchers to engage with activists in response to the challenges posed to our communities by data-intensive modes of governance and administration? How can research support social movements in exposing the role of technology in constraining, (infra)structuring, and directing the civil sphere? How might scholars dedicated to studying and serving minortized communities redraw the boundaries of research and activism to address the concerns of our home communities, build solidarity, and contribute to collective resiliency?

This workshop and working group will meet to map out new research agendas that draw on, support, and advance activist responses to datafication in minoritized communities. We invite scholars, journalists, graduate students, artists, adjunct lecturers, para-academics, public scholars, community activists, and data/information professionals interested in thinking through the relationship between activism and research to join this forum. The goal of the two-day workshop will be to identify an

actionable research agenda that will support the interests of minoritized communities and to build an intellectual network to support this work.

The workshop will feature a talk by Yeshimabet Milner, Executive Director of Data for Black Lives (http://d4bl.org <http://d4bl.org/>), "a group of activists, organizers, and mathematicians committed to the mission of using data science to create concrete and measurable change in the lives of Black people."

Topics for discussion might include:

· Intersectional feminist, critical race, indigenous, and/or postcolonial approaches to data studies;

· Publications and grey literature to support community self-defense and activism;

· Interventionist science and technology studies;

· Working in and with minoritzed and precariatized communities;

· Pedagogy and teaching strategies for community liberation;

· Immaterial, emotional and affective labor in activism and social movements;

· Resistance, non-participation, and speculative engagements with politics.

People interested in participating should send a 250-word statement of research/statement of activism to crooksr@uci.edu <mailto:crooksr@uci.edu> by **January 15, 2019**. Please include in this statement what you would like to contribute to this workshop and what you would like to get out of it. In addition, please include a 100-word bio. Submissions will be reviewed and participants will be invited by Feb 1, 2019. Participation will be capped at 20 people. Meals will be provided. Limited support for travel and lodging is available: priority for funding goes to students and those without institutional support.

We welcome your questions. Please contact crooksr@uci.edu <mailto:crooksr@uci.edu> with any related inquiry.

References

Crooks, R. N. (2018). Times Thirty: Access, Maintenance, and Justice. Science, Technology, & Human Values, 016224391878305. https://doi.org/10.1177/0162243918783053 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0162243918783053>
Eubanks, V. (2017). Automating inequality: How high-tech tools profile, police, and punish the poor. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.
Noble, S. U. (2018). Algorithms of oppression: How search engines reinforce racism. New York, NY: New York University Press.
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. (2018). Before the bullet hits the body: Dismantling predictive policing in Los Angeles. Retrieved from https://stoplapdspying.org/before-the-bullet-hits-the-body-dismantling-predictive-policing-in-los-angeles/ <https://stoplapdspying.org/before-the-bullet-hits-the-body-dismantling-predictive-policing-in-los-angeles/>

van Dijck, J. (2014). Datafication, dataism and dataveillance: Big Data between scientific paradigm and ideology. Surveillance & Society, 12(2), 197–208. https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v12i2.4776 <https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v12i2.4776>

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https://www.facebook.com/CenteringtheMargins/posts/332301307360477?__tn__=K-R

Centering the Margins: Conversations with Writers of Color responds to the vital need for minority writers to construct spaces for creating, critiquing and publishing their poetry and fiction. Co-hosted by UC San Diego and the San Diego Central Library, the two-day conference will offer panels on topics that range from writing in diasporic communities, navigating predominantly white MFA programs and literature departments, and finding literary agents and publishers committed to the work of #OwnVoices authors.

The conference is set for **March 1-3, 2019.** Throughout the weekend, six moderated panels will be held at UC San Diego's Cross-Cultural Center and the San Diego Public Library. On Friday and Saturday night, panelists and members of the community will be invited to read from their work at open mic nights held at both   the San Diego Central Library Auditorium and at UCSD's Cross Cultural Center. The conference is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be provided at each session.

Extended Deadline: January 28, 2019 at 3:00pm

Call for Proposals
AES/ALLA/ABA Joint Spring 2019 Conference!
March 14 - 16, 2019

We invite you to submit individual or panel abstracts for our 2019 Joint Spring Conference at Washington University in **St. Louis, MO, March 14-16, 2019.**

Submission & registration can be found on the CFP website.

The theme of the 2019 Spring Conference is **Ethnographic Futures.** We invite you to submit abstracts that reflect possible unfoldings of the future in specific locales, worlds, and lifeways. Five years after protests in Ferguson around racialized police brutality, **Ethnographic Futures** will convene in nearby St. Louis to explore how people with whom we study and collaborate imagine, create, participate, and refuse.

Conference & travel information can be found on the AES 2019 website.
Student Diversity Travel Grants information on website.

For questions, contact meeting organizers at aes.alla.aba.2019@gmail.com.