



1st COLLEEX WORKSHOP

Programme

**13th - 15th July 2017
Jardim Botânico Tropical
Lisbon**

**Ethnographic Experimentation
Fieldwork Devices and Companions**

First International Workshop of the #Colleex
Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation,
an EASA network

Organised by



#Colleex – Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation, an EASA network
Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS), Universidade de Lisboa
EBANO Collective – Ethnography-Based Art Nomad Organisation, Lisbon

Supported by



European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
Jardim Botânico Tropical, Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência (MUNHAC), Universidade de Lisboa
Professorship for Participatory Technology Design, MCTS, TU Munich

Organising Committee

Eeva Berglund, independent scholar
Francesca De Luca, ICS, ULisboa
Adolfo Estalella, Spanish National Scientific Council
Anna Lisa Ramella, Locating Media, University of Siegen
Chiara Pussetti, ICS, ULisboa
Tomás Sánchez Criado, MCTS, TU Munich

Ethnographic Experimentation: Fieldwork Devices and Companions

“Fieldwork is not what it used to be” (Faubion and Marcus, 2009). The investigation of previously ignored social domains and the incorporation of new sensibilities beyond its typically verbal or visual conventions, have expanded ethnography: Anthropologists now engage in novel forms of relationship and intervention, and enter into heterodox exchanges with other disciplines like arts and design. The invocation of experimentation in fieldwork is part of this widened exploration of new ethnographic modalities that reshape the norm and form of fieldwork.

Recent invocations of experimentation in ethnographic projects are not merely a metaphorical gesture. Descriptive accounts of experimentation bring to life ethnographic imaginations that transform field informants into epistemic partners (Holmes and Marcus, 2005), remediate the form of ethnography in the company of others (Rabinow, 2011), or trade in the traditional comparative project of anthropology for a collaborative one (Riles, 2015). The experimental can thus be a distinctive articulation of the empirical work of anthropologists in the field.

The epistemic figure of experimentation is not new in anthropology (or other social sciences). On the contrary, the experimental nature of many ethnographic projects of the contemporary connects with and draws from the creative exploration of writing genres inaugurated in the 1980s but, while the experimental drive was then located in the space of representation, we are now witnessing a shift where fieldwork is a locus of experimentation.

To invoke ethnographic experimentation is not necessarily to signal a methodological rupture with conventional forms of ethnography. Rather, it is a distinctive form of narrating contemporary forms of fieldwork where ethnography is less a set of practicalities and procedures than a mode of anthropological problematization (Rabinow, 2011). Relying on the most genuine descriptive aspiration of anthropology, the invocation of ethnographic experimentation thus signals the exploration of conceptual languages for describing distinctive forms of engagement in the field.

Experimentation remains an elusive term however, sometimes loosely used, perhaps metaphorically or allegorically. At the workshop we would like to focus on specific, thoughtfully designed interventions through which ethnography in the field unfolds in experimental ways. We are interested in particular forms of relationship, material artefacts, digital infrastructures, fieldnotes genres, spatial venues, methods of meeting... Following John Law and Evelyn Ruppert (2013) we call them “fieldwork devices”: arrangements that assemble the world in specific social and material patterns for the production of knowledge. We thus invite scholars to share descriptive accounts that offer insights of how fieldwork devices turn ethnography into a venue for experimentation.

Faubion, J. D., & Marcus, G. E. (Eds.). (2009). *Fieldwork Is Not What It Used to Be: Learning Anthropology's Method in a Time of Transition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Holmes, D. R., & Marcus, G. E. (2005). *Cultures of Expertise and the Management of Globalization: Toward the Re-Functioning of Ethnography*. In A. Ong & S. J. Collier (Eds.), *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems* (pp. 235–252). Oxford: Blackwell.

Law, J., & Ruppert, E. (2013). *The Social Life of Methods: Devices*. *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 6(3), 229–240.

Rabinow, P. (2011). *The Accompaniment: Assembling the Contemporary*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.

Riles, A. (2015). *From Comparison to Collaboration: Experiments with a New Scholarly and Political Form*. *Law and Contemporary Problems*, 78(1-2), 147–183.

What is #Colleex?

#Colleex is a collaboratory for ethnographic experimentation. An official network of the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA). It aims to open up a space for debate and intervention around experimental forms of ethnographic (field) work. Amid profound debates in recent years on the nature and conventions of ethnography, #Colleex seeks to explore novel forms of knowledge production for anthropology. The network is organized as a ‘collaboratory’ whose main agenda is to foster practical explorations alongside theoretical debates on what we call ethnographic experimentation.

#Colleex intends to explore the infrastructures, spaces, forms of relationship, methods, and techniques required to inject an experimental sensibility in fieldwork. In no way unprecedented in the anthropological endeavour, experimentation has been invoked decades ago as an opportunity to renovate the discipline through novel forms of ethnographic writing and representation. The #Colleex network intends to further develop the experimental impulse present in anthropology, shifting its locus from the process of writing to the practice of fieldwork. The intention is to work on a question: What would ethnographic fieldwork look like if it was shaped around the epistemic practice of experimentation? In #Colleex fieldwork experimentation is not just invoked for its own sake but because there is a prospect that doing so could help foster new forms of anthropological theorization.

The network seeks to connect with anthropologists and other practitioners of ethnography interested in discussing their fieldwork practices. It could be of interest for specialists in the fields of visual anthropology, sensory anthropology, digital ethnography, design anthropology, as well as other social scientists and researchers using participatory and experimental methodologies, creative intersections of art and anthropology, or anthropology and STS. The network also seeks to include specialists from other domains like artists, cultural producers, designers, and practitioners of any discipline interested in creative experimentation with ethnographic practice. The inventive unfolding of ethnography already taking place in those areas could greatly contribute to strengthening the reach of anthropological fieldwork practices.

PROGRAMME

SCHEDULE

Wednesday 12th | Thursday 13th | Friday 14th | Saturday 15th

Preparation

09:30 - 11:15
Opening
Space 1
+
F0
Space 1 outdoors

09:30 - 11:15
Paper Slot 2
Space 1

9:30 - 11:15
Paper Slot 4
Space 1

11:15-11:45
Break

11:15-11:45
Break

11:15-11:45
Break

11:45 - 13:30
Paper Slot 1
Space 1

11:45 - 13:30
Paper Slot 3
Space 1

11:45 - 13:30
Paper Slot 5
Space 1

13:30 - 14:30
Lunch
+
P1-P4
Space 2

13:30 - 15:00
Lunch
+
Exhibitions (E)
Space 2

13:30 - 14:30
Lunch
+
F13
Space 1

14:30 - 17:45
Formats
(F1-F7)
Space 3
+ outdoors

15:00 - 17:30
Formats
(F2B, F8-F12)
Space 3
+ outdoors

14:30 - 15:30
Closing
Space 1

17:45 - 20:00
Audiovisuals
(A1-A4)
Space 3

17:30 - 19:30
Audiovisuals
(A5-A10)
Space 3

Documentation of the workshop

The workshop and its presentations, discussions, gatherings and related events will be documented audiovisually and sessions may be livestreamed and recorded. By entering the conference venue and attending the sessions, **you are giving your consent** to videotape, record, and cablecast your picture, likeness, voice and statements.

Wi-Fi

There is **limited access to Wi-Fi** at the venue. Please make sure to bring with you any material you might need or wish to show.

Venue

Jardim Botânico Tropical (JBT)
Largo dos Jerónimos, Belém
1400-209 Lisboa

Public transport lines

Bus: 727, 728, 729, 751, 714
Tram: 15
Train: Linha Lisboa-Cascais (estação de Belém)

Opening & Closing

Thursday 13th 10:00 - 10:30 Space 1

Opening: “Ethnographic Experimentation: Fieldwork Devices and Companions”

Opening words by Eeva Berglund, Francesca De Luca, Adolfo Estalella, Chiara Pussetti, Anna Lisa Ramella, and Tomás Sánchez Criado (joint #Colleex, EBANO / ICS organising committee for this first #Colleex workshop)

Saturday 15th 14:30 - 15:30 Space 1

Final Discussion

Programme

1. Papers

Each session will be chaired by a member of the organizing committee. They will allow each presenter about **10 minutes for presenting their paper.**

We expect paper givers to have read each other's papers in advance to allow for as rich a discussion as possible to round off each session.

Thursday 13th | Session 1: **“Observation: other tales of the field”**

Chaired by Eeva Berglund

Splintering Apart the Colonial Archive, Alyssa Grossman
On “observing oneself as an instrument of observation” (Lévi-Strauss), Mischa Twitchin
Taking Participant Observation Literally, Anna-Lena Berscheid
Anthropology and the Arts Sit at the Same Table: Performing Fieldwork in Lisbon and Tbilisi, Francisco Martínez
Mediating Development in Albanian Cities: Investigations of Hapticity, Agency, and Processes of Individuation in Urban Spaces, Arba Bekteshi
Reading Nearby, Matt Rosen

Friday 14th | Session 2: **“Collaboration 1: Modes and devices of experimentation”**

Chaired by Adolfo Estalella

Constructing Precarious Archives in Marginal Moscow: Experimental Undercommons and Tales of Fieldwork, Anton Nikolotov
Devices For Conducting Speculative Ethnographic Inquiry, Henry Mainsah
Evaluation, Theology, and Experiments in Translation, Tjitske Holtrop and Sarah de Rijcke
Philosophical Carpenters at the Ethnographic Table: Craft, Companions, and Strange Tools, Adam van Sertima
The possibility of Personalized Medicine: Are experimentation and collaborative participation the best research approaches?, José Costa

Friday 14th | Session 3:

“Collaboration 2: affects and effects”

Chaired by Anna Lisa Ramella

Collaboration amidst ecological issues, Jonas Müller and Tanja Bogusz
“Everything holds together only along diverging lines” Collaboration as device, or experiments in art and anthropology in Palestine/Israel, Kiven Strohm
Object and Image Centered Storytelling: Notes From a Quick Ethnography, Carmen Lamothe, Adam van Sertima, Ceyda Yolgormez, and Gabbrielle Lavenir
A forgetful ethnography: A memory project on what has been forgotten (on anomia), Denielle Elliott

Saturday 15th | Session 4:

“Data: designing, collecting and conflicting”

Chaired by Tomás Sánchez Criado

Ethnotheatre and participant observation, Ricardo Seiça Salgado
A citizen data app as fieldwork device: reflections on a collaborative practice, Francisca Grommé and Evelyn Ruppert
Recording the Becoming, Han-La Jang
Is a tweet a fieldnote? Reflections on #ESIFRice, Rachel Douglas-Jones
Collaborative research on urban margins: a research designed through experimentation, Kitti Baracsi

Saturday 15th | Session 5:

“Staging, performing and exhibiting ethnography”

Chaired by Francesca De Luca

Ethnographic modes of exhibition and the paradoxical narratives of a “living cultural heritage”, Dominique Schoeni and Mathieu Fribault
Articulations of Life as Future-making with each Other, Karen Waltoorp
Afro-Brazilian cultural work in Togo, today. An ethnographic exploration through theatre, Bernard Müller
Essayistic Approach to Multispecies Ethnography, Yağmur Koçak
New Methodologies In Times Of Crisis: The Art Of Collaborate And Try Out, Marta Morgade Salgado and Karmele Mendoza Pérez

2. Formats

Coding system

- P – Permanent
- F – Format
- A – Audiovisual
- E – Exhibition

Thursday 13th 13:45 – 14:30

PERMANENT

(5-10' introduction over lunch to these more permanent interventions, Space 2, Esplanade)

P1: From Jardim Botânico Tropical with Love – or, postcards and letters as ethnographic tools (Space 3, Esplanade)

Mascha Gugganig

P2: In the mood for epistemic love (Space 1, Arcade)

Andrea Gaspar

P3: A Cor do Silêncio | The Colour of Silence (Space 2, Lion's House Shop)

EBANO - Leticia Barreto

P4: Atlas: MATRIX* (Space 2, Lion's House Entrance)

EBANO - Heléna Elias and Francesca De Luca

Thursday 13th 10:30 - 11:30

FORMATS 0

(Space 1, Esplanade)

F0: CLEENIK: Clinic of anthropological ethnographic experiments in fieldwork (Thursday 13th, 10:30, Space 1, Esplanade)

Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation

Thursday 13th 14:30 - 17:45

FORMATS 1

(Space 3)

14:30 - 15:00

F1: How to cook an omelette: A proof of concept study

Rachel Allison, Anna Harris and Andrea Wojcik

15:00 – Open-ended (first 15' to explain and choose who's staying)

F2A: Being in and Around: Experimental embodied and sensorial approaches in ethnography and representation

Patricia Alvarez and Mauricio Godoy

15:15 - 15:45 (Meeting point: Space 3, Outdoors)

F3: Bodies-at-Work

Tania González-Fernández

15:45 - 16:15 (Space 3)

F4: The Vibrant Gallery: An Experiment in Remaking Ethnographic Praxis

Elizabeth White and Aryana Soliz

16:15 - 16:45 (Meeting point: Space 3, Outdoors)

F5: Sonic engagements: towards new radical epistemologies?

Alexandra Baixinho

16:45 - 17:15 (Meeting point: Space 3, Outdoors)

F6: What we waste: Subverting domestic food practices with experimental creation-based methodologies

Pamela Tudge

17:15 - 17:45 (Meeting point: Space 3)

F7: Using PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) for CAPE: Culturally Adapted Program of Empowerment Self -Defense for Dominican Women

Tamar Priel

Thursday 13th 17:45 – 20:00 (Preparation starts at 16:30)

AUDIOVISUALS 1

“Experiencing place | Evoking place | Making place”
(Space 3)

A1: Slow Cinema Tableaux Mouvant: The Outskirts of Venice

Rina Sherman

A2: It would be nice to follow you

Igor Karim, Violetta Koutsoukou, and Kostia Lennes

A3: Because of the Sea

Paulo Mendes and Filipe Reis

A4: Merging studio with field

Camille Sineau

Friday 14th 13:30 – 14:45

EXHIBITIONS

(10' per presentation + free wandering or Q&A; Space 2)

13:30 - 13:40 (Coffee House)

E1: Dynamogram of Puerto Casado: an interdisciplinary exhibition on the history of a tannin factory in Paraguay

Valentina Bonifacio

13:40 - 13:50 (Coffee House)

E2: Beyond Representation: Images and Memory Put at Work in Articulating Repertoires of History

Maria Eugenia Ulfe

13:50 - 14:00 (Lion's House entrance)

E3: Composing our words. An experimental workshop exploring alternative forms of self-representation

Federica Manfredi

Friday 14th 15:00 – 17:30

FORMATS 2

(Space 3)

15:00 - Open-ended (continuation of previous day, meeting point outdoors)

F2B: Being in and Around: Experimental embodied and sensorial approaches in ethnography and representation

Patricia Alvarez and Mauricio Godoy

15:00 - Open-ended (first 15' to explain and choose who's staying; meeting point outdoors)

F8: A Collective Act: An Ethnography Made by Five Ethnographers at Once

Rachel Harkness

15:00 - 16:00 (To be played several times)

F9: Re-enacting First Encounters: A Semi-Fictional Interactive Play

Judith Igelsböck and Melina Antonakaki

15:45 - 16:45 (meeting point outdoors)

F10: Soundwalk-walk

Maile Colbert and Ana Monteiro

16:00 - 16:30 (meeting point outdoors)

F11: Reuse as inquiry: A method for reimagining and remaking everyday materials

Aryana Soliz and Jessica Bleuer

16:30 - 17:00 (meeting point outdoors)

F12: Rhythmography: proposing a device pitch, presenting its companions

Cláudia Rodrigues

Friday 14th 17:30 - 19:30 (Preparation starts at 16:00)

AUDIOVISUALS 2

“Encounter and collaboration: New languages for ethnography”

(Space 3)

A5: Who was sitting on his head?

Catarina Laranjeiro and Daniel Barroca

A6: Artisans, alcoholics and artists: In searching of the new language for description of experimental ethnographic realities

Tomasz Rakowski and Eva Rossal

A7: Circulating objects - four stories about bocios

Anna Lisa Ramella

A8: Digitalburhwal.in | Collaborative Archival And New Media Project

Rajat Nayyar

A9: Transmedia anthropological documentaries in memory processes. Challenges and horizons

Raúl San Miguel

A10: Ghetto PSA

Rossella Schillaci

Saturday 15th 13:30 – 13:50

FORMATS 3

(Space 1, Outdoors)

F13: When the Dogon masks speak: Words and materiality, witness of the colonial history

Nadine Wanono