



Ethnography in Urban Settings

Intersections. Methods. Visions.

The workshop will straddle the disciplinary boundaries of urban anthropology and human geography, with the intended purpose to promote rigorous experimentation with innovative ethnographic research techniques in urban settings at the intersection of social sciences, art, and design.

The workshop is initiated by the international collaboration between the University of Toronto's *Ethnography Lab* and Humboldt University's *Georg-Simmel-Centre for Metropolitan Studies* in Berlin. In October 2016 the two institutions founded a new transatlantic network: the *Urban Ethnography Lab*. We have invited scholars and graduate students whose recent research uses experimental urban ethnographic methods and techniques.

Workshop

August 29 - 30, 2017

University of Toronto
Anthropology Department
19 Russell Street, Toronto
Room 330

Urban Ethnography Lab
Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan
Studies, Berlin

Submit the application (including a short letter of motivation of at least 150 words and CV) electronically to: urbanethnographylab@gmail.com.

Applications will be accepted until July 20, 2017.



Explore and Experience the Urban Field

Urban space is one of the central research fields of anthropology, which understands cities as social laboratories where social and cultural developments are initiated and condensed.

Nevertheless, urban anthropology depends on the views of other disciplines like historical and social sciences, architecture, geography, city planning, urban design and arts. To work with people from different disciplines is always enriching; it helps to identify blind spots in one's own research perspectives and to develop new modes of transdisciplinary discourse and research methods.

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Workshop Program

The objective of the workshop is to gather urban researchers who will present, discuss and experience urban ethnographic methods. We hope that the interdisciplinary intersections will generate new ideas and visions to develop our understanding of the urban and its social, spatial and cultural context.

August 29, 2017

9 - 9:30

Introduction: Urban Ethnography Lab

9:30 - 11

Carolin Genz (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Department for Social and Cultural Geography)

New Ethnographic Perspectives in Urban Settings

Can new methods be developed to capture urban dynamics and transformation processes? How can an interdisciplinary perspective between ethnography and geography help us?

11.15 - 12

Prof. Kanishka Goonewardena (University of Toronto, Department of Geography)

A Brief History of Cognitive Mapping: Method, Theory, Politics

12.15 - 13

Aylin B. Yıldırım Tschoepe (Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies):

Spatializing Ethnographic Research

Cognitive Mapping beyond Lynch: How can we go beyond "traditional" cognitive mapping to a culture and site-specific approach? How can we make use of quantitative tools such as GIS to represent qualitative fieldwork findings and, thereby, make our research more widely accessible?

14 - 16

Fieldwork Excursion

Mappings, Go-Alongs and Fieldnotes

16 - 17

Discussion

Ethnographic Data Material & Discussion: How do we process and visualize ethnographic data (mappings and fieldnotes), especially for making the data accessible to other disciplines and useful for analysis?

August 30, 2017

9 - 9:30

Introduction: Recapturing thoughts on mapping and research exercise

9:30 - 11

Jessika Tremblay (University of Toronto, Ethnography Lab)

Digital Ethnography in Urban Context

How do ethnographers collect and analyze data from social media rigorously yet qualitatively? How can we effectively write and code fieldnotes about social media processes?

11.15 - 12

Emily Hertzman (University of Toronto, Asian Institute)

Tamir Arviv (University of Toronto, Department of Geography)

Collaborative Micro Ethnographies of Urban Mobilities and Spatialities

How can we maintain rigorous ethnographic data collection methods for short-term projects that involve high degrees of collaboration? Where do we locate ourselves socially and physically, as ethnographers of mobility and spatiality in the city?

12.15 - 13

Lukas Ley (University of Heidelberg, Institute for Anthropology)

Conjuring up the city

What do alternative navigation software, water walks, and Jane's Walks have in common and what can we learn from them? How do different actors search for underlying social and cultural values and power politics that give form and meaning to the cityscape and the built environment? In which ways can ethnography and urban research learn from these actors?

14 - 16

Fieldwork Excursion

Digital vs. Analog Urban Fieldwork

16 - 17

Discussion

Visions for the future: Visions for Urban Ethnography? Which topics seem to be most interesting? What methods can be developed and what visions could emerge for the progression of urban ethnographic research methods?