

## Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2019-2020

### Writing Workshop (MA Thesis)

**ANSO097- Spring - 6 ECTS**

[Schedule & Room](#)

**NB three compulsory 4 hrs sessions (9:15-13:00 hrs)**

13th March, 3rd April, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### Course Description

This workshop aims at developing critical thinking about the relationship between empirical evidence, theory and written representations of social reality. Using a variety of theoretical and methodological literature, students who are in the process of writing their theses are exposed to multiple forms of representations. It allows them to develop and experiment with various standpoints on core issue areas relevant to the ANSO department, and to defend these. The interactive dynamic within the seminar enables students to reflect on, and train, major representational skills, both oral and written. Each participant will have to run a session. Three longer class sessions (4 hours each) are dedicated to actual writing related to the students' MA-thesis. The coherence of the argument, the correct and relevant use of sources and the creative ways of engaging the readers are the main assessment criteria.

#### > PROFESSOR

[Dr Fenneke Reysoo](#)

[Office hours](#)

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#### > ASSISTANT

[Shirin Barol](#)

[Office hours](#)

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## Syllabus

**Session One** 28.02.2020 : **Introduction, Programme and Cultural Inventory.**

### Issues:

Identify the various kinds of data you have collected.

Review all your notes and recordings of what you have collected.

Select a retrieve system that is workable and will keep you from getting lost in your data.

Discover ways to organize your final MA thesis.

Students' preparation to be presented in session one (March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

Taking a **data inventory** (Spradley, 1980: 155 ff)

“The fieldnotes created by an ethnographer as a record of research grow with amazing rapidity (...). But now it is time to begin organizing your material in preparation for writing the ethnography. You cannot memorize everything recorded in your field notebook, but you do need to have access to everything in order to make selections to be included in your final report. (...)  
Before you begin the serious business of writing the ethnography, consider the value of taking a *cultural inventory*. By taking several hours to review all your notes – condensed accounts, expanded accounts, journal, analysis and interpretation – and recording what you have collected, you will actually save time.”

At the start of the Writing Workshop ANSO097 you will be asked to make a *data inventory* (after Spradley, 1980: 155/see excerpt or Sanjek, 1990 “A Vocabulary of Fieldnotes”) so that you oversee the types of data you have gathered; it will allow you to identify the gaps of information that need to be filled and to organize your data for writing your ethnography.

During the first session (February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020) you will present and discuss your *data inventory* with the other participants of the Writing Workshop. Each of you will have 5 minutes to do so

Readings:

Henning, Elizabeth (2004). *Finding your way in qualitative research*. Johannesburg: Van Schaik Publishers, Chapter Six. Making meaning of data: analysis and interpretation, pp. 101-140

Sanjek, Roger (1990). “A Vocabulary of Fieldnotes”, in: Sanjek, Roger Eds. (1990). *Fieldnotes the Making of Anthropology*, Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press, pp. 92-121

Spradley, James (1980). *Participant Observation*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers, Chapter Eleven: Taking a Cultural Inventory, pp. 155-159

Additional readings

ECO, Umberto (1977). *How To Write A Thesis*. (Original title: *Come si fa una tesi di laurea*, 1977), 275 p.

ORWELL, George (1946). *Politics and the English language*. London: Penguin Books, 48 p.

**Session Two** 06.03.2020: **On the Writing of Ethnography**

Issues:

- Presuppositions And Implications Of The Ethnographic Text
- Ethnographic Writing as Intercultural Translation

Readings :

ATKINSON, Paul (2013). [Ethnographic Writing, the Avant-Garde and a Failure of Nerve](#). *International Review of Qualitative Research*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 19-35

HANDELMAN, Don (1994). [Critiques of Anthropology: Literary Turns, Slippery Bends](#). *Poetics Today*, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 341-381

SPENCER, Jonathan (1989). [Anthropology as a Kind of Writing](#). *Man*, New Series, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 145-164

Additional Readings:

CRAPANZANO, Vincent (1977). [On The Writing Of Ethnography](#). *Dialectical Anthropology*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 69-73

HESS, David J. (1989). [Teaching Ethnographic Writing: A Review Essay](#). *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 163-176

MITCHELL, Richard & Kathy CHARMAZ (1996). Telling Tales, Writing Stories. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol. 25, no.1, pp. 144-166

**Session Three/Four** 13.03.2020 : (4 hrs, 9:15-13:00) **Classics: Writing Session 1 (Room S7)**

Issues:

Classical Canons  
Monography, Community Study

Readings/Examples:

BENEDICT, Ruth (1946). *The Chrysanthemum And The Sword : Patterns Of Japanese Culture*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin [{Table of Content}](#)

EMBREE, John F. (1939). *Suye Mura: A Japanese Village*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press [{Table of Content}](#)

MALINOWSKI, Bronislaw (1922). *The Argonauts of the Western Pacific. An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea*. London: G. Routledge/  
New York: E.P. Dutton [{Table of Content}](#)

SIU, Paul C. (1988). *The Chinese Laundryman. A Study of Social Isolation*. London: Penguin Books  
(+ various book reviews) [{Table of Content}](#)

**Session Five** 20.03.2020: **Accountability and Validity**

Issues:

Authorship and authority  
What are the criteria of validity in ethnographic research?  
Ethnographic objectivity  
How do you relate to your theoretical frame?

Readings :

ATKINSON, Paul (2013). [Ethnographic Writing, the Avant-Garde and a Failure of Nerve](#). *International Review of Qualitative Research*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 19-35

Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2016), Epistemologies of the South and the future, *FROM THE EUROPEAN SOUTH* 1 (2016) 17-29, <http://europeansouth.postcolonialitalia.it>

HAZAN, Haim (1995). [The Ethnographer's Textual Presence: On Three Forms of Anthropological Authorship](#). *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 395-406

SANJEK, Roger (1990). On Ethnographic Validity. In: Sanjek, Roger Eds.(1990). *Fieldnotes the Making of Anthropology*, Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press, pp. 385-418

Additional readings:

BOURDIEU, Pierre, CHAMBOREDON, Jean-Claude, PASSERON, Jean-Claude (1969). *Le métier de sociologue. Préalables épistémologiques*. Paris : Mouton, Chapitre : La rupture, pp. 27-49

MARCUS, George E., Dick CUSHMAN (1982). Ethnographies as Texts. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol.11, pp. 25-69)

O'CONNOR, Kay (1996). Glossary of Validities. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol. 25, no 1, pp. 16-21

**Session Six** 27.03.2020: **Thick Description and the Limits of Interpretation**

Issues:

- Analysis, Interpretation, Overinterpretation
- Verstehen, Hermeneutics
- Partial Truths

Readings :

ECO, Umberto (1990). *The Limits of Interpretation*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, Introduction, pp. 1-7, Chapter 1 Two Models of Interpretation, pp.8-22

GEERTZ, Clifford (1993). Thick Description: toward an interpretive theory of culture. In: Geertz, Clifford (1973). *The interpretations of cultures: selected essays*. London: Fontana, pp. 3-30

Additional Readings :

CRAPANZANO, Vincent (1985). *Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

DOWD HALL, Jacquelyn (1989). [Partial Truths](#). *Signs*, Vol. 14, No. 4, Common Grounds and Crossroads: Race, Ethnicity, and Class in Women's Lives, pp. 902-911

FOUCAULT, Michel (Translated by Richard HOWARD) (1976). *Ceci n'est pas une pipe*. MIT Press.

LUTZ, Catherine (1990). [The Erasure of Women's Writing in Sociocultural Anthropology](#). *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 611-627

PERRAMOND, Eric P. (2001). [Oral Histories and Partial Truths in Mexico](#). *Geographical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 1/2, Doing Fieldwork, pp. 151-157

**Session Seven/Eight** 03.04.2020 : (4 hrs, 9:15-13:00) **Writing session 2: Experiential Writing Room S1)**

Experiential writing/Confessions

Examples/readings:

BOWEN, Eleonore (1954). *Return to Laughter*. New York/London: Doubleday

LÉVI-STRAUSS, Claude (1955). *Tristes tropiques*. Paris : PLON

RABINOW, Paul (1977). *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco*. Berkeley: University of California Press

**Session Nine/Ten** 24.04.2020 (4 hrs, 9:15-13:00): **Experimental Writing Session 3 (Room S1)**

Readings :

Fischer, Michael M.J. (2015). Time, Camera, and the (Digital) Pen: Writing Culture Operating Systems 1.0-3.0, in: Starn, Orin (ed.) (2015). *Writing Culture and the Life of Anthropology*. Durham/London: Duke University Press, pp. 72-104

MARCUS, George E. (2007). [Ethnography Two Decades after Writing Culture: From the Experimental to the Baroque](#). *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 80, No. 4, pp. 1127-1145

NAYARAN, Kirin (2012). *Alive in the Writing. Crafting Ethnography in the Company of Chekhov*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 170 p.

**Session Eleven** 08.05.2020 : **Politics of Representations**

Issues:

Authorship and authority  
Representations and (partial) truths  
Data analysis and representational strategies

Readings :

ABU-LUGHOD, Lila (1991). Writing against Culture. In: FOX, R.G. *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, pp 137-154

BEHAR, Ruth (1990). [Rage and Redemption: Reading the Life Story of a Mexican Marketing Woman](#). *Feminist Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 2, Speaking for Others/Speaking for Self: Women of Color, pp. 223-258

MARTINEZ, Susana S. (2005). [Coyotes, Comadres, y Colegas Theorizing the Personal in Ruth Behar's Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story](#). *Meridians*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 149-175

Additional Readings:

ABU-LUGHOD, Lila (1993). *Writing Women's Worlds. Bedouin Stories*. Berkeley: University of California Press,

ALCOFF, Linda (1991). The Problem of Speaking for Others. *Cultural Critique*, No. 20, pp 5-32

ATKINSON, Paul (2013). [Ethnographic Writing, the Avant-Garde and a Failure of Nerve](#). *International Review of Qualitative Research*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 19-35

BEHAR, Ruth & Deborah A. GORDON Eds (1995). *Women Writing Culture*. Berkeley: University of California Press

SAID, Edward (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books

**Session Twelve** 15.05.2020 (4hrs 9.15-13.00 hrs) **Home stretch of your thesis (room S7)**

Issues:

Getting your argument straight.  
Plenary discussion on the advancement of your thesis.

Additional Readings:

KATZ, Jack (2019). On Becoming an Ethnographer. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol. 41, no 1, pp. 16-50

MARCUS, George E. & Michael M.J. FISCHER (1986). *Anthropology as Cultural Critique: an Experimental Moment in the Human Sciences*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

**Evaluation criteria**

The achievement of the 6 ECTS is based on the lecturer's assessment of the quality of the participation, the ability to debate on various issues and the analytical progression of the students (25%). The ethnographies produced during the three writing sessions and the chairing of one session/discussion account for 75% of the evaluation.

**Contact:**

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