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, 24th 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.

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 9th, 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 28th, 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:**


**Additional readings**


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

**Issues:**

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

**Readings**:


**Additional Readings:**


**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:**


**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 :**


Additional readings:


Session Six 27.03.2020: Thick Description and the Limits of Interpretation

Issues:

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

Readings:


Additional Readings:


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

Experiential writing/Confessions

Examples/readings:


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

Readings:


Session Eleven 08.05.2020 : Politics of Representations

Issues:

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

Readings:


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:


**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:**


**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.

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