

Workshop in a Nutshell as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2017

Doing Ethnographic Research in Practice: Challenges, Dilemmas and Conflicts

Organizational details

Instructor: Dr Ana Ivasiuc

Date: June 21, 2017, from 16.00 to 20.00

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 024 (HS 024)

Content

The workshop is intended to discuss concrete challenges and dilemmas of ethnographic research, which doctoral students have encountered during their fieldwork, and which pose ethical, methodological or conceptual problems in their current research. The content of the workshop will be highly influenced by the issues the participants wish to address, spanning diverse topics. Some of the issues which are expected to pose certain problems during ethnographic research are:

- First contact: where and how to start research? How to foster acceptance in your research community? How to communicate about your research in ethically responsible ways?
- Rapport with research participants: what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in ethical fieldwork relationships? How do your gender, age, class, ethnic/racial background shape your rapport and how to mitigate related difficulties? How to solve conflicts? How to deal with gatekeepers?
- Anonymity and confidentiality in research: what do ethical guidelines say and how to adapt them to specific situations? How to solve ethical issues related to sensitive topics, like crime and illegality?
- Depth versus breadth of research: how to calibrate your fieldwork to match your research questions?

Upon registration, the participants will be requested to describe the issues, which they found problematic in their fieldwork, as well relevant questions they wish to address. In accordance with the topics, which will emerge, a list of relevant readings will be used. The literature will guide the discussions during the workshop, pointing towards fruitful ways in which the challenges and dilemmas might be addressed. The workshop will be tailored to the participants' specific questions, which will be addressed during group discussions. As a result, concrete solutions will be formulated to help participants deal in appropriate ways with the challenges encountered, while effectively incorporating them into the research results and theorization process.

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties who have used or are interested in using ethnographic research methods.

Course language

English

Registration

Please register **by May 31st, 2017** via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de, including in your message a **short description of the issues you encountered** during your own fieldwork (max. 400 words), as well as **specific questions** you would like the workshop to address. The workshop is however open also to students who have never conducted ethnographic research, or who have not encountered problems during this phase.