In this course we will focus on the end-stages of the research process, notably the crafting of the final products of ethnography and their many possible forms. We will critically explore the history of ethnographic representation and its reception. We will discuss the theories and experiences that historically have informed different templates of writing and the analytical controversy they have engendered. We will look into the ways in which new technologies have influenced and multiplied ethnographic modes of representation, from print media to film and sound. At the core of this analytical exploration is the relationship between the anthropologist and her audience; between author and reader, between filmmaker and spectator, between sound-recorder and listener. Most significantly, it is about the ways in which these mediations impact on those studied in the first place: The subjects of our ethnographies.

The backbone of the analytical work we will be doing together in this course rests on a close reading of monographs and papers based on ethnographic fieldwork in different parts of the world and during different periods of time. This, of course, requires the active participation of students throughout.

Ethnographic texts will be placed in a wider analytical and historical context. We will discuss the problems of representation, narrativity and authorship as they relate to particular social and political transformations in global relations (e.g. industrialization, colonialism, modernity and the post-colonialism). We will be teasing out the theoretical perspectives that inform not only the content but also the form of ethnographic texts, images and film. In other words, we will scrutinize the changing relationships between the observed, the represented and the received as these are represented in the ethnographic product of text, film and soundtrack. Our analytical focus will gradually change from textual representations to a concern with the embodiment and anthropology of the senses – the ways in which taste, smell, touch, sound, colour etc. – play formative roles not only for perception, memory and knowledge but, crucially, for the conceptualization and enactment of sociality. How can we, as anthropologists, best represent the bodily and sensory dimensions of ethnography – through text, images or film?

During the course period it is expected that all students attend the regular departmental research seminar.

Course schedule

The course runs from week 17 through week 23.
Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 – 12:00

Student organised seminars: Wednesdays at 10:15 – 12:00

Week 22: Study week, no lectures.

Course readings

Monographs

Eduardo Kohn

Finnström, Sverker

Essays

*Theories of Signification*

Beck, B.

Born, G.

De Boeck, F

Douglas, M.

Douglas, M.

Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M

Levi-Strauss, C.


Moore, H. L


Moore, H. L


Sandor, A.


Sangren, S.


Strathern, M.


Van der Geest, S. and Whyte, S. R.


*Narrative, Fiction and Science*

Anderson, B

1983 “Cultural Roots” (CH 2) in *Imagined Communities*. Verso: 9-36

Anderson, B.

1998 “El Malhadado Pais” (CH 16) in *The Spectre of Comparisons*. Verso. 333-359

Creed, W.

Darnton, R.  

Daston, L. and Galison, P. 
1992  “The Image of Objectivity” Representations, No. 40, Special Issue: Seeing Science: 81-128

Daston, L.  

Jackson, M.  

Martin, E.  

Porteous, J.D  

White, H.  

White, H.  

Transformations: Modernity and the Reconfigurations of Social Imaginaries

Apter, A.  

Geertz, G.  

Keesing, R.  
1987  “Anthropology as Interpretive Quest”. Current Anthropology, 28:161-169
Kuklick, H.
1996 “Islands in the Pacific: Darwinian Biogeography and British Anthropology Author(s)” in American Ethnologist, Vol. 23, No. 3:611-638

Shankman, P.

Stocking G.W.
1996 “Center and periphery: Armchair anthropology, missionary ethnography and evolutionary theory”. In After Tylor. London: Athlone: 15-46

Classical Anthropological Narratives: Malinowski, Mead, Evans-Prichard

Asad, T.

Gross, F.
1986 “Young Malinowski and His Later Years” American Ethnologist, Vol. 13, No. 3:556-570

Luktehaus, N. C.

Johnson, D. H.

Authorship, Film and Anthropology

Abu Lughod, L.

Behar, R.
1995 “Writing in my Father’s Name: A Diary of Translated Woman’s First Year” Women Writing Culture University of California Press:65-82
Crawford, P.
1992 “Film as Discourse: the invention of anthropological realities” in Crawford, P & Turton, D (eds.) Film as Ethnography. Manchester University Press:66-84

Hastrup, K.

Keane, W.

Marcus, G. E.
1998 “Imagining the Whole: Ethnography’s contemporary efforts to situate itself” Ethnography through Thick and Thin. Princeton University Press:33-56

Marcus, G. E. & Cushman, D.

Mascia-Lees, F. Sharpe, P. and Ballerino Cohen, C.
1989 “The Postmodernist Turn in Anthropology: Cautions from a Feminist Perspective”. Signs vol.15, 11:7-33

Moore, H.

Sahlins, M.

Spiro, M.

Spyer, P.

The ontological turn in anthropology

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo
1998 Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism. In Journal of the Royal
Searle, John R.

Taylor, Charles

Carrithers, Michael, Matei Candea, Karen Sykes, Martin Holbraad and Soumhya Venkatesan
2010  Ontology Is Just Another Word for Culture: Motion Tabled at the 2008 Meeting of the Group for Debates in Anthropological Theory, University of Manchester. In *Critique of Anthropology*, 30:152-200

Holbraad, Martin

Alberti, Benjamin, Severin Fowles, Martin Holbraad, Yvonne Marshall, and Christopher Witmore

Hage, Ghassan

Vigh, Henrik Erdman and David Brehm Sausdal

Bessiere, Lucas

Harris, Oliver J. T. and John Robb

*Embodiment, Emotions, Selves*

Boddy, J.
1998  “Spirits and Selves in Northern Sudan: The Cultural Therapeutics of Possession
and Trance” *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Medical Anthropology: 4-27

Broch-Due, V  

Csordas, T.J  

Johnson, M.  

Kirmayer, J.  

Laqueur, T.  

Lock, M.  

Lutz, C. and Geoffrey M. White, G.M  

Martin, E.  

Mbembe, A.  

Van Wolputte, S.  
Sensory Conceptualisations

Basso, K.  

Brennis, D. and Feld, S.  

Bourdieu, P.  

Classen, C.  

Classen, C.  

Counihan, C.M  

Feld, S.  

Howes, D.  
2003 Sensual Relations: Engaging the Senses in Culture and Social Theory (chap 1,2) The University of Michigan Press

Korsmeyer, C.  

Roberts, L.  
Stoller, P.