



**Theoretical, methodological, ethical and practical issues of field research:
*A focus on war-affected areas and risk-settings***

Workshop

15-16 May 2013

Seminar Room 4, Badia Fiesolana

(10 credits)

Conveners:

Christine Andrä (EUI)

Juan Masullo (EUI – COSMOS)

Sponsors:

Donatella della Porta (EUI – COSMOS)

Diego Gambetta (EUI)

The workshop will address the main theoretical, methodological, ethical and practical aspects of field research. We will discuss field research as one specific part of a research project; cover different techniques for data collection and analysis; point out related ethical and political issues and best practices for coping with them; and raise practical steps that need to be taken before, during and after the field. Although these topics pertain to all kinds of field research, the emphasis will be on field research in settings affected by war and large-scale violence or otherwise risky social contexts, highlighting the specific difficulties, opportunities and trade-offs that these contexts may entail. Workshop discussions will be based both on scholarly literature and actual fieldwork experiences of both speakers and participants.

Day 1: Wednesday, 14 May 2013

9.30 – 9.45 Welcome and Introduction

9.45 – 10.45 Setting the terms: What is field research?

Presentation by Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)

Suggested readings

Wood, Elisabeth J. (2009) “Ethnographic Research in the Shadow of Civil War” in Schatz, Edward (ed.) *Political Ethnography: What immersion contributes to the study of power*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 119 - 142

Malthaner, Stefan (forthcoming) “Fieldwork in the context of violent conflict and authoritarian regimes”, in: della Porta, Donatella (ed.) *Methodological practices in social*

movement research.

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 1.00 Methods in Field Research: Interviews and Beyond

Discussion led by Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)

Suggested readings

Bernard, H. Russell (2002) “Field Notes: How Take Them, Code Them, Manage Them”, in: Bernard, H. Russel *Research Methods in Anthropology. Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, AltaMira Press, 365-89.

Balsiger, Philip and Alexandre Lambrelet (forthcoming) “Participant Observation”, in: della Porta, Donatella (ed.) *Methodological practices in social movement research*.

Fujii, Lee Ann. 2010. Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence, in: *Journal of Peace Research* 47:2, 231-41.

1.00 – 2.30 Lunch Break

2.30 – 4.30 Ethical and Political Issues in Field Research

Discussion led by Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)

Suggested Readings

Wood, Elisabeth Jean (2006) The Ethical Challenges of Field Research in Conflict Zones, in: *Qualitative Sociology* 29:3, 307-41.

Bourgois, Philippe (2009[1991]) “Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons from Fieldwork in Central America” in Robben, Tony and Jeffrey A. Sluka. *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell 2007, 288 - 297.

Murphy, Elizabeth; Robert Dingwall (2007) “The Ethics of Ethnography” in Atkinson, Paul Anthony et al. (eds.) *The Handbook of Ethnography*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Day 2: Thursday, 15 May 2013

9.30 – 11.00 “Finding Switch Board Operators: How to Scale Factional Divisions in Conflict Situations”

Presentation by Tony Robben (Utrecht University)

Suggested readings

[TBD]

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 1.15 Round Table Discussion “Comparing Different Approaches to Fieldwork: What is the purpose of field research in our respective projects?”

Panelists

Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)

Tony Robben (Utrecht University)

Donatella della Porta (EUI – COSMOS)

Moderator

Stefan Malthaner (EUI – COSMOS)

Suggested readings

Tilly, Charles (2006): Afterword: Political ethnography as art and science, in: *Qualitative Sociology* 29: 409-12.

Schatz, Edward (ed.) (2009): Symposium: Ethnographic methods in political science. *QMMR Newsletter* 7:2, 32-50.

Robben, Tony and Jeffrey A. Sluka (2007) “Fieldwork in Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction” in Robben, Tony and Jeffrey A. Sluka. *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell 2007, 1-29.

Robben, Tony and Carolyn Nordstrom (1995) “The Anthropology and Ethnography of Violence and Sociopolitical Conflict” in Nordstrom Carolyn and Tony Robben (eds.) *Fieldwork Under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival*. Los Angeles: California University Press.

1.15 – 2.45 Lunch Break

2.45 – 5.00 Practical Issues: “Experiences from the Field”

Presentations by 4 EUI researchers (TBD)

Please register with Adele Battistini (Adele.Battistini@eui.eu)