

Third term, Academic Year 2025-2026

Workshop: Ethnographic Approaches to Data Collection in the Field

Time and Place: **9-10 April 2026**

Given by: **Natasha Rupesinghe**

Administrative Contact: Sofia.Altisini@eui.eu

Seminar Description and Objectives

This workshop teaches researchers how to conduct field research using ethnographic approaches which require immersion in a field site. We begin by discussing how researchers can better confront ethical dilemmas which arise during immersive fieldwork, particularly when collecting micro-level data. We also examine a variety of approaches to build relationships in the field site. The second part of the workshop investigates two ethnographic methodologies in depth: semi-structured interviews on sensitive topics – often the most difficult to navigate in the field – and moderate to in-depth forms of participant observation. The final part of the workshop critically examines how we write about our ethnographic insights, in particular the trade-off between providing thick, descriptive accounts and protecting the identity of our research participants.