PhD Ethnographic Methods Course in Social Anthropology

November 25th – 27th, 2020

NTNU, Trondheim (Norway)

Course Objectives

This course brings together PhD candidates from Nordic and other institutions across Europe for three days of intensive lectures and discussion on different aspects of the ethnographic research cycle.

We plan to highlight the construction and articulation of theoretical problems and ethnographic data in anthropological research. We will cover the linkages from problem definition and pre-fieldwork preparation, to fieldwork strategies, to analyzing data and preparation of final text. The course will examine methods and genres of representation that pay attention to questions of knowledge, evidence, ethics, power, and experience, across the transition from ethnos/Anthropos to cybercultures and digital worlds.

Participants will be expected to submit a draft of their proposed research by November 2nd, 2020 to allow proposals to be pre-circulated to participants prior to the workshop. Participants will also be given the opportunity to present their proposals at the workshop.

The first part of the course introduces key issues in practice, politics, and epistemology of ethnography as an approach to data gathering and analysis characterized by embodied involvement in the fields of study. We will consider the deployment of concepts, nature of social relations in the field, craft of writing, and multiple audiences of ethnography. We will pay attention to what makes ICT’s (Information and Communication Technologies) anthropologically relevant in the context of sociality-based conditions of existence. The second part of the course provides a hands-on introduction to practical tasks of ethnographic fieldwork. We will cover operationality of proposal/research plans and study designs. We will consider techniques of observation and interviewing in various settings—from locally-based, community ethnography to online research and bureaucratic institutions to multi-sited and global inquiries.

Evaluation: Submission of essay is required for both SANT 8004 and SANT 8006.

The essay for SANT 8004 must fall within one of the following categories: a) a discussion and critical appraisal of course literature, and b) an application of course content to the participant’s own research. The essay should not exceed 8,000 words (excluding bibliography and notes). Deadline: March 15th, 2021. This course is equivalent to 10 ECTS.

The essay for SANT 8006 must fall within the following category: A discussion, analysis and critical appraisal of course literature. The essay should not exceed 4,500 words (excl. bibliography and notes). Deadline: January 15th, 2021. The course is equivalent to 5 ECTS.
Registration:

Deadline for registration is September 15th, 2020.

Internal candidates from NTNU can register for the course through their own Studentweb: https://innsida.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/Norsk/studentweb

External candidates can register for the course by following the steps in this link: https://www.ntnu.edu/phd//courses_external

If you have any question regarding registration please contact Geir.Tvedt@ntnu.no or kontakt@sosant.ntnu.no

Participants should be enrolled in a doctoral program or equivalent to participate.

Practical information:

The course will take place on campus in Trondheim.

Participants are required to cater for their own travel and accommodation while in Trondheim.

The course starts mid-day on the 25th and ends at mid-day on the 27th of November.

Detailed program of the course will be announced after the registration deadline.

Persons responsible for the course:

Professor Harald Aspen (NTNU)

Professor Carla Dahl-Jørgensen (NTNU)

Additional lecturers:

Professor Kim Fortun, UCI Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

Professor Guro Øyen Huby, Faculty of Health and Welfare, Østfold University College

Research fellow and lecturer Dr. Christian Ritter, Centre of Excellence in Media Innovation and Digital Culture (MEDIT), Tallin University

Associate professor Arthur Mason, Department of Social Anthropology, NTNU