The New Critical Ethnography: Hybrid, Virtual and Multi-Modal

Setha Low

Tuesdays 11:45-1:45 (cross-listed with Psychology, Anthropology, EES and Women’s Studies

Please note that a limited number of seats have been allotted to each of the programs. If you find that you can not register, please contact me at slow@gc.cuny.edu.

Hybrid with 5 in person sessions to be arranged.

Abstract

The seminar begins with an overview of the goals, methods and forms of analysis that make up contemporary “real life” ethnographic practices and then turns to the ways that film, video, activism, art practices, performance and social media expand and complement current methods. The seminar explores a wide range of digital tools, techniques, and multi-modal methods for use across the disciplines. Readings focus on past ethnographic projects that incorporate hybrid and virtual realities and the impact of remote methods on ethnographic research. Interviews with some of the major scholars in the field are included as well as viewing pre-recorded video interviews that are already. Each student who is planning ethnographic research projects in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is offered an opportunity to search social media for “data” and explore alternative methods then use the course to question the validity and reliability of these personal archives and resources to think through the implications of working with these data. The course will require reading, a video autoethnography, website-based participant observation, an arts based intervention and a final project of your own work that incorporates some of the virtual/digital/multi-modal methods covered in the course.