

# A?

Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture

# ARTS-L0130

# Methods of gathering data

*Eeva Berglund – Session 3: 17.1.2018 – Interviews 2*

# INTERVIEWING 2

1. A further note on ethical clearance
2. Taking care of notes and data
3. **Moving away from convention: walking, sketching, objects, etc.**
  - In-class exercise and discussion – 10:15 – 11:30
4. **Tasks 8 & 10**

# On consent

- Do you need to get informed consent – in writing? And are they able to?
- EB: the crucial thing is that the person is in a position to sign it – important e.g. when working with children, medical patients, etc.
- Also, people must know that they can withdraw!
- It is not feasible in all situations to seek informed consent!
- What do your employers and funders require?

# Template interview consent forms - examples abound online!

*[https://web.stanford.edu/group/ncpi/unspecified/student\\_assess\\_toolkit/pdf/sampleinformedconsent.pdf](https://web.stanford.edu/group/ncpi/unspecified/student_assess_toolkit/pdf/sampleinformedconsent.pdf)*

Also see, [http://www.aalto.fi/en/research/research\\_data\\_management/data\\_management\\_planning/research\\_ethics/](http://www.aalto.fi/en/research/research_data_management/data_management_planning/research_ethics/)

# Taking care of our notes and other data



Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture

# What are field notes?

Transcribed text? Scratch notes?

"I am a fieldnote" – at least if "everything is data" and "my body is my instrument of enquiry"

Also, emails, letters to supervisors or peers, jottings of all kinds. On all kinds of mediums.

They have a use – filing them is done best with those uses in mind.

Labelling, tagging and retrieval.

But also note taking/making is a way of conceptualizing.

# Records of fieldwork

- Must include date, time and location and other relevant details
- Information needed about the participants and any notes about release forms
- Label records, make duplicates, and store them safely!
- Soon after you've made them, go through your notes and add interpretive commentary
- Transcribe what you need to (or get it done by someone else) quickly, and check the transcription against the original.
- Particularly if you store your data for shared use, keep metadata: a dataset's creator, title, year of publication, repository, identifier etc.
- Do weekly clear-outs of random bits of paper! Boxes are handy...

# Task 5

**Devise a filing system and write a MyCourses entry of a maximum of 300 words to describe and justify your system.**

**Due 22.1. by 10 am.**



**Are there any issues in  
the texts you'd like to  
discuss at this point?**



**Interviews-plus:  
walking, sketching,  
video, email etc.**



**Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture**

# Walking or go-along interviews

Steiner Kvale in Warren 2011 “The interviewer wanders along with the local inhabitants, asks questions that lead the subjects to tell their own stories of the lived world, and converses with them in the original Latin meaning of conversation as ‘wandering together with’”(p. 4).

- Phenomenological approach (Whitehead, Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, de Certeau, de Beauvoir)
  - What are people experiencing?
  - What does place do for personal and social life?
  - Meanings and narratives are embedded in places and bodies
  - Mundane, parochial, unnoticed features appear differently to insiders and strangers, particularly as they meet

# In anthropology

- Tim Ingold as a promoter of phenomenological approaches that connect people – technologies – places
- Thinking and especially learning and skill are always embodied and spatial (emplaced)
- Ingold, T. (2000) *The Perception of the Environment: Essays in livelihood, dwelling and skill.*
- Keith Basso's linguistic anthropology and *Wisdom that Sits in Places*, see Steven Feld and Keith Basso (eds) *Senses of Place*

# Margarethe Kusenbach, e.g. 'Street phenomenology: the go-along as ethnographic research tool

Go-along interviews particularly suited for exploring:

1. Environmental perception
2. Spatial practice, e.g. avoidance, rhythms of use
3. Biographies, e.g. psychogeography
4. Social architecture, e.g. stigma, norms of use, difference of access
5. Social realms generally, e.g. civil inattention or friendly recognition

Go-alongs as hybrid of interview and participant observation

# Lived experience *in situ*

Kusenbach, Margarethe. "Street phenomenology: The go-along as ethnographic research tool." *Ethnography* 4.3 (2003): 455-485.

Also Sarah Pink's 'sensory ethnography' (next week)

Edward S. Casey, philosopher of place. Making use of the *reciprocity of body and place*, reflecting ethnographer's and native's [sic] grasp of a concrete universality, a generality immanent in place thanks to the lateral homologies and sidewise resemblances between things and people in all places...

- getting at local knowledge that is somehow singular and impure, yet shared
- To argue against Modernity's Fallacy of Misplaced Abstractness (quoting A.N. Whitehead)

# Object interviews

Some conversations *in the background*

From identifying social agents beyond human subjects Alfred Gell *Art and Agency*,  
Arjun Appadurai and *The Social Life of Things*

Actor Network Theory and assemblage thinking - Bruno Latour, Jane Bennett and  
more-than-human geographies/ontologies/worlds

Material culture studies – Daniel Miller and lots of folks at University College  
London e.g. Global Denim Project – these people have actually *done* object  
interviews

<http://www.materialworldblog.com/2014/08/announcing-our-inaugural-occasional-paper-and-our-new-occasional-paper-series/>



You are Here: [Home](#) > [Occasional Paper Series](#) > [Announcing Our Inaugural Occasional Paper and our new Occasional Paper Series](#)

## Announcing Our Inaugural Occasional Paper and our new Occasional Paper Series

by [Holly Gossamer](#) on August 7, 2014 in [Occasional Paper Series](#)

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Material World Occasional Paper Series, in which we make available longer, more formal texts (and other forms suitable for digital publishing) that would not otherwise be widely accessible and which we feel develop the critical framework on material and visual culture that we aim to promote through Material World Blog.

Our Occasional Paper Series is peer reviewed and is indexed as a serial by the Library of Congress as:

Material World Occasional Papers Series

[POPULAR](#) [LATEST](#) [TAGS](#)

### Occasional Paper Series

- [No. 6: Deconstructives](#)
- [No. 5: Mr Cooperatives – A Life in the Items World](#)
- [No. 4: Properties and Social Imagination](#)
- [No. 3: Space and Place in a Disaster Landscape](#)
- [No. 2: A Citizen's Guide to Plastic Pollution](#)
- [No. 1: Occasional Paper on Protocols](#)
- [Occasional Paper Series: Call for Papers](#)

### In Brief

No posts yet.

### Links

- [UCL Department of Anthropology](#)
- [UCL Digital Anthropology](#)
- [UCL Museums and Collections](#)

### Categories

- [Announcements and Listings](#)
- [Art, Literature and Poetry](#)
- [Book Reviews](#)
- [Conferences and Event Reports](#)



# Objects and lives

- Are *enfolded* into each other – Gilles Deleuze
- Even more open-ended than phenomenology
  - stories and perceptions (people, texts, meanings) are folded together
- Object interviews often seem to last a long time, they are so open!
- Seem not to generate answers about meaning (culture) or experience (phenomenological) as connections



"David, 23, Tuscon" - Photo c/o Paula Zuccotti, Every Thing We Touch

<https://dscout.com/people-nerds/Paula-Zuccotti-objects-that-define-us>

# Other conventions of unconventional methods

- Sketching
  - Andrew Causey 2017 *Drawn to See: Drawing as an ethnographic method*, Michael Taussig 2011 *I swear I saw this. Drawings in fieldwork notebooks, namely my own.*
- Workshops, probes, films, urban hitchhiking...
- Architecture and making
  - Tim Ingold (2013) *Making: Anthropology, archaeology, art and architecture.*

# #colleex collaboratory for ethnographic experimentation



Lisbon workshop, photo Vitor Barros, 2017

July 19, 2017

Academic, Anthropology

Leave a comment

## Ethnographic experimentation among #colleex

It's typical on return from intense fieldwork to find writing about it to be impossible. What I feel is a little similar. And yet four full days later, I still want to make sense, to document, to hold on to the excitement, of last week at the Jardim Botânico Tropical, Lisbon.



This was the 1st workshop organized by the EASA network #Colleex, on Ethnographic Experimentation. *Fieldwork Devices and Companions*.

Instead of extended discursiveness then, I will make a few notes and share some of the wonderful photos taken by Vitor Barros, one of the members of Lisbon's Ebanocollective, whose art is

<https://eevabee.wordpress.com/2017/07/19/ethnographic-experimentation-among-colleex/>

# A?

Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture

# EB & Pauliina Jalonen – Kaamos kävely – Polar night walk (kind of)

3.2. at 17:00, meet in front of the Design Museum

# In-class exercise

## 10:15 – 11:30

### - Be fair to each other



# Divide into 2 groups, A & B

As do a walk-along or object interview with Bs

- If you need a topic, it is Arabia and the Arts School's move
- Beyond that you are free to improvise an interview schedule
- You can also combine a walk-along and an object
- Do an audio-recording but jot down some mnemonics too
- 30 minutes

Return to the classroom. Bs interview As. 30 minutes

**MAKE SURE YOUR RECORDINGS WORK AND ARE SAFE. I SUGGEST EMAILING THEM TO YOURSELVES**

# Discussion

**You need not discuss the results of the exercise as such – share any insights that it prompted about the practice of walk-along or object interviews.**

**Here are some discussion prompts:**

- What kind of data did your exercise make possible? (Does the idea of 'naturalistic' data have any place in what Aalto Arts does?)
- Groups report back to everyone on one or more issue.



# Tasks 8 and 10



Aalto University  
School of Arts, Design  
and Architecture