



# TIMETABLE

## MONDAY

10-12	12-2pm	2-4
<i>Joint Session</i> Introductions & instructions for peer work	Lunch	<i>Peer work</i> Initial discussion of group activities
Hosted by: DK, MM, AA, JF		

## TUESDAY

10 – 12pm	12 - 2pm	2 – 4pm	4 - 5pm
<i>Joint Session</i> Taking care of yourself	Lunch	<i>Joint Session</i> Taking good Fieldnotes	<i>Individual work</i> Fieldnote write-up
Hosted by: DK		Hosted by: MM	

## WEDNESDAY

9.15 - 9.50	10 - 12pm	12 - 2pm	2 - 4pm
<i>Joint Session</i> Comparing fieldnotes	<i>Joint Session</i> Audio, visual and digital methods	Lunch	<i>Joint Session</i> Ethics
Hosted by: MM	Guest speaker: Dr. Doris Okenwa (UCL). Hosted by: JF		Hosted by: AA

## THURSDAY

9.15 - 12pm	12 – 2pm	2 – 4pm
<i>Peer work</i> Preparing presentations	Lunch	<i>Joint Session</i> Presentations
		Hosted by: DK, AA, MM, JF

## FRIDAY

10 - 12pm	12 – 2pm	4-6pm
<i>Joint Session</i> Presentations	Lunch	<i>Joint Session</i> Star Lecture
Hosted by: DK, AA, MM, JF		Prof. Dr. Minh T.N. Nguyen, (Bielefeld University, Germany) Hosted by: JF

# SESSION SUMMARIES

## MONDAY 19th

### ***10-12pm: Introduction & instructions for peer work***

In this joint session we will provide opportunity for staff and student to introduce themselves and get to know each other. Staff will provide guidance on the format of the week and students will have the opportunity to say what points of methodology/fieldwork/ethics they feel need most attention – allowing some sessions to be tailored toward meeting student needs.

### ***2-4pm: Peer work***

Throughout the week groups will be working toward an innovate presentation/activity on a theme central to conducting successful fieldwork. Time is built into the programme for groups to work on their presentation/activity that will be delivered over the course of sessions on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Participants are encouraged to be as creative as possible to deliver an interactive session (staff are willing to take part!). Students will have signed-up to one of the following thematic groups:

- Art-based research methods (Audio-visual and performative techniques)
- Innovation in the archives
- Selling yourself as a researcher (communication to diverse audiences and stakeholders)
- Corruption and Bureaucracy
- Digital Methods

## TUESDAY 20th

### ***10-12pm: Taking care of yourself in the field***

Fieldwork has many challenges, from taking care of your health, to allowing for family life, to ensuring an effective balance of work and rest. There are bureaucratic, practical, as well personal demands on time and energy. This workshop will address some common pitfalls and concerns of fieldwork and offer practical tips for ensuring that your time in the field – whether down the street or across the globe – is safe, effective, and even enjoyable.

### ***2-4pm: Taking good fieldnotes***

In this joint session we will explore both the necessity for, and myths that surround fieldnotes. We will discuss different types of notes and diaries, mnemonic techniques, and tips for sharing and storage. This session will involve working in small groups to practice our skills at fieldnote taking. In preparation for this session you are invited to read the following wonderful article:

- Jackson, Jean. 'I am a fieldnote: Fieldnotes as a symbol of professional identity'. In Roger Sanjek (Ed.) *Fieldnotes. The Making of Anthropology*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Available in files as a pdf)

### ***4-5pm: Fieldnote write-up***

You may wish to use this time to work the scratch notes you took during your conversation in the last session into a more complete 'fieldnote entry' which you should then email to your group.

## WEDNESDAY 21st

### **9.15- 9.50am: Comparing fieldnotes**

Having read one another's fieldnote entries, we will meet to compare and contrast their differences and similarities. Doing this will give you a better understanding of your particular fieldnote taking abilities and blindspots.

### **10 – 12pm: Audio, visual and digital methods**

Guest speaker: Dr. Doris Okenwa (UCL)

Film and photography have played a prominent role in anthropological research. More recently, anthropologists are also incorporating digital methods into their research. This session will be in two parts. First will be a general discussion exploring visual ethnographic methods such as: visual diaries, observational film, photo elicitation and photo ethnography, digital ethnography and some practical tips around techniques and ethics. The second part will invite you to imagine how some of these methods can creatively enhance your research beyond the written word. It is often daunting to imagine “filming” during fieldwork and even more daunting to imagine what to do with all the photographs you will take in the field beyond adding some to your final thesis. By the end of this session, you will be able to “think small” – how to look out for those unexpected events, objects, landscapes, characters and stories that may or may not be directly linked to your fieldwork but could potentially add some visual perspective to the overall project.

Here are some interesting resources you can enjoy in preparation for the workshop:

Some short visual anthropology films on Vimeo. It's always interesting to see how other anthropologists visually explore big issues with everyday life and “small things”.

<https://vimeo.com/channels/visualanthropology>

*On photography & digital ethnography:*

“Why We Post” is a global anthropological research on the uses and consequences of social media. 9 anthropologists spent 15 months in 9 communities around the world, researching the role of social media in people's everyday lives. The results were fascinating and there were short films attached. Some aspects of their process might inspire some ideas for your own fieldwork considering the growing dominance of the digital space in the lives of everyday people across the world. <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/why-we-post/>

Here's an interesting take on photography in research by visual anthropologist Daniel Miller <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/global-social-media/2014/02/02/photography-in-the-age-of-snapchat/> And, the link to his work “Photography in the Age of Snapchat” <https://www.therai.org.uk/publications/anthropology-and-photography>

### **2-4pm Ethics**

In this session we will discuss the ethics of anthropological research. We will trace the ethical journey – apologies for the jaded metaphor - from the choices of what to research, through the research itself, and to the writing up and publication of the results. A distinction – imperfect of course – will be drawn between ethical requirements and ethical obligations. We will discuss the institutional requirements that generally exist in the UK for securing ethical clearance for anthropological research. We will highlight some of the problems and the

dangers these requirements pose for research in anthropology. We will then discuss the ethical obligations attached to anthropological research, obligations that go beyond institutional requirements.

The format of the session will be a short talk followed by questions, answers and discussions. It would be useful if participants were to familiarise themselves with the process of acquiring ethical clearance for research that applies to them in their respective institutions. Below is a link to the ethical guidelines of the Association of Social Anthropology, the professional body of anthropology in the UK and the Commonwealth. There is also a link to Ethnav, a road map to ethics review produced by Bob Simpson, a STAR guest from the past, and Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner, for the ASA.

<https://www.theasa.org/ethics/>  
<https://www.theasa.org/ethics/ethnav.phtml>

## **THURSDAY 22nd**

### ***9.15-12pm: Peer Work***

You are invited to use some or all of this time to work on your peer group presentations.

### ***2-4pm: Presentations***

We will gather to watch and give feedback on the first set of group presentations.

## **FRIDAY 23rd**

### ***10-12pm: Presentations***

We will gather to watch and give feedback on the second set of group presentations.

### ***4pm: Star Lecture***

Star keynote speaker: Professor Minh T.N. Nguyen (Bielefeld University)

## **Befriending Strangers: On Rejections, Unintended Entanglements and Serendipity in Ethnographic Fieldwork**

Ethnographic fieldwork is a risk-laden undertaking of throwing oneself into the uncertainty of trying to build meaningful relationships with strangers in order to learn about their lifeworld. It can be scary, anxiety producing and frustrating. But it can also be exhilarating, rewarding and enriching. In this talk, I will reflect on my experiences of doing fieldwork in Vietnam and China in the last decade or so through a number of accounts of my encounters with people in the field. I have found it helpful to think of fieldwork as efforts to enter into a cycle of gift exchange in which the most valuable are people's life stories, including those of the ethnographer. Gift exchange is never straightforward, as we know, often it is shaped by unmatched expectations and unequal power relations; at times it takes totally unexpected turns and leads to unintended entanglements that we might not want. Yet it remains the only way to cultivate and sustain relationships, and the very disappointments and unwanted happenings might turn out to be the cues for the social realities that we are looking for.

## About the hosts and speakers

**Arnar Árnason** is a senior lecturer in social anthropology at Aberdeen University. His research to date has focused mostly on death, loss and grief, drawing in themes of subjectivity and affect, narrative and healing, melancholia, governmentality, neo-liberalism and the 'nation-form'. Arnar has carried out fieldwork researching death and grief in the (former) mining villages in North East England, Japan, Iceland and Scotland. He is currently working on an interdisciplinary project on funerals as care with colleagues in Aberdeen, and on a project exploring the moral genealogy, or social history, of trauma in Iceland with colleagues at the University of Iceland.

**Daniel M. Knight** is Reader in the Department of Social Anthropology and Director of the Centre for Cosmopolitan Studies at the University of St Andrews. He has held positions at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Durham University and collaborates closely with the British Academy's British School at Athens. He is author/co-author of four books. His first monograph, *History, Time, and Economic Crisis in Central Greece* (2015) explores how moments of the past are intricately woven together during eras of social upheaval. His second, *Vertiginous Life: An Anthropology of Time and the Unforeseen* (2021) presents a theory of scalar temporal disorientation induced by sudden societal change. Daniel is co-author of *The Anthropology of the Future* (2019) and co-editor of *Ethnographies of Austerity: Temporality, Crisis and Affect in Southern Europe* (2017). He has edited special collections on *Emptiness (Cultural Anthropology, 2020)*, *Orientations to the Future (American Ethnologist, 2019)* and *Alternatives to Austerity (Anthropology Today, 2017)*. He is currently preparing a book on renewable energy programmes in times of economic austerity and is working on a volume of anthropological engagements with philosopher Michel Serres. Daniel co-edits *History and Anthropology* journal.

**Jiazhi Fengjiang** is lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the LSE. Her ongoing book project explores the political, moral, and economic lives of ordinary people who strategized volunteering and charitable work in coping with political-economic restructurings in contemporary China. Her broader research interests span political and economic anthropology, anthropology of development, ethics and humanitarianism, gender, work, mobility, and East Asian studies, as well as visual and graphic anthropology. She is developing a new project on Chinese transnational humanitarianism in southeast Asia. Before joining the University of Edinburgh, she has worked at Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity as a postdoctoral researcher and Princeton University as a Fung Global fellow.

**Maya Mayblin** is senior lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. For the past 20 years she has conducted research in Brazil, and more recently in Scotland. Maya's work explores themes of ritual, politics, kinship, gender, and sexuality. She has published widely on the anthropology of religion and is the author of *Gender, Catholicism, and Morality in Brazil: virtuous Husbands, powerful wives* (2010, Palgrave Macmillan), director of the documentary film *Vote of Faith* (2014), and co-editor of *The Anthropology of Catholicism: a reader* (University of California Press, 2017). Maya's current research is on secular death practices in Britain, exploring how tensions between abstract values of dignity and equality emerge through the material practices surrounding the treatment of the corpse and the deceased's subsequent memorialization, particularly in the context of public health funerals.

**Minh T.N. Nguyen** is professor of social anthropology at the Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, Germany. She is the author of *Vietnam's socialist servants: Domesticity, class, gender and identity* (Routledge, 2015) and *Waste and wealth: An ethnography of labour, value and morality in a Vietnamese recycling economy* (Oxford University Press, 2018). Professor Nguyen works on labour, care, welfare, and migration, and is co-editing two special issues on the good life and on the politics of development in late socialist Asia.

**Doris Okenwa** is a Nigerian anthropologist and holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from LSE. Her research explores the political economy of oil in Kenya and its impact on the host community of Turkana County. Drawing on the anthropology of development, natural resources and distributive politics, Doris analyses the dynamics of resource exploration and extraction including promises of development and social inclusion for this hitherto relegated region. Doris is expanding her PhD thesis in a monograph with the working title “Impermanent Development: The Ambiguous Benefits of Africa’s Extractives Industry.” The book broadens the concept of impermanence towards a comparative study between Kenya’s nascent oil industry and Nigeria’s long standing struggles with oil governance. The book will also be accompanied by an ethnographic film that visually explores the implications of natural resource development on local livelihoods, economic growth and social mobility. In addition to her PhD in anthropology, Doris has a strong background in visual media having worked extensively as a broadcast journalist in Nigeria and London. Currently, she convenes a media lab on Researching the Social World through Visual Ethnographic Methods at the University College London (UCL).

An exhibition of her photo essay entitled “Lifeworlds of an Oilfield” can be found on the LSE’s Anthropology Department website.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/anthropology/Old-Anthropology-Library/Old-Anthropology-Library>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/188305139@N02/sets/72157715030733583/>