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Experimental ethnographic workshop proposal

Ethnography with a twist, 12-14 February 2019, Jyväskylä, ethnotwist@jyu.fi

Session coordinators: Kristiina Korjonen-Kuusipuro (University of Tampere, kristiina.korjonen-kuusipuro@uta.fi / after 1.1.2019 kristiina.korjonenkuusipuro@gmail.com) & Robert Willim (Lund University, robert.willim@kultur.lu.se)

BEYOND WORDS – Different modes of exploring concepts and theories

When doing ethnographic research, we concentrate on something emergent rather than something already known, planned or prefigured. This demands creativity and imagination. However, written and spoken language is still very much the only modes we researchers express ourselves in the humanities and social sciences. Especially researchers' understandings of theoretical concepts are based on written texts. The question we would like to ask is: Could we learn even more about concepts by extending our toolbox with expressions beyond words? Could we use photography, sound, video, painting, drawing, dance (or other kinaesthetic ways) to elaborate our understanding of theories and concepts?

By building on already ongoing discussions about art, ethnography and anthropology, this experimental and playful session examines the boundaries of scientific knowledge. During the session, we will explore some chosen theoretical concepts and let expressions beyond words "speak back" to the concepts. We invite all scholars interested in challenging the boundaries of scientific knowledge to join this session. All participants are encouraged to free their mind and to create something else than a written text. Never mind how we usually understand art and science. Step outside the box for 1,5 hours: take your mobile phones, cameras or pens, papers or notebooks with you and join the fun! Creative ways of experimenting with theoretical and conceptual knowledge may be useful for example in teaching, but it may also be helpful in developing one's own theoretical understanding. There's a risk it will be fun!

Keywords: art, anthropology, ethnography, knowledge, creativity, learning