UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Workshop - Etnografia

2223-2-F0101R051-ETNO

Course title

Ethnography Lab

Topics and course structure

Through the direct involvement of students, the laboratory aims to analyze and experiment with the tools, techniques and methods of ethnographic analysis. We will address the follwoing fundamental questions: what does an anthropologist do in the field? How is an ethnographic research project designed? How do we define the research questions? How can we best prepare our arrival on the field? How do we choose what to observe? How is an interview structured? What ethical and deontological issues are at stake? How do we select our interlocutors? How can we inform them (formally/informally) about the purposes of the research and the use of their information? How do we analyse and communicate the collected/produced data? How has the ethnographic method changed over time? What are the specificities of the anthropological ethnography when compared with the ethnographic method used by other disciplines?

The introduction to these topics will be accompanied by practical exercises, which will help participants become familiar with the methodological tools. Debate among the students, facilitated by the instructor, will follow the exercises and will help to understand (and reflect upon) the role of the ethnographer in the field.

Students will have the opportunity to propose a topic of their interest (ideally, the topic on of their work of thesis) on which to focus their exercises.

When possible, guest speakers will be invited to present their research experiences, focusing on the concrete aspects, the difficulties and the opportunities they encountered during their fieldwork, and they will answer student’s questions.

Objectives

This lab is intended to promote the following learning objectves:

- knowledge and understanding of the main methods of collecting and producing data in the field;
- knowledge on how to design an ethnographic research, i.e. identifying the general theme, the choice of a case study, the formulation of research questions, the selection of participants, and the choice of the most appropriate methods;
- ability to apply the principal methods of data collection and production in the field;
- ability to organize, contextualize, analyze and interpret the ethnographic data, in the light of the existing scholarship

Methodologies

The laboratory requires the involvement and active participation of the students. The intention is to create an environment where students can express themselves without fear of judgment. Participatory teaching methods will be preferred, with group or individual exercises, collective discussions mediated by the instructor and collaborative learning methods.
The same didactic method will be followed in the case of the presence of expert guests.

Online and offline teaching materials

Specific teaching materials will be indicated to students during the laboratory meetings.

Programme and references for attending students

A specific bibliography will be indicated during the laboratory meetings, accorging to the topics that will be addressed and the specific interests of the students. There is no mandatory bibliography.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Attendance is highly recommended, given the laboratory character.

Assessment methods

Credit recognition is in relation to active participation and the carrying out of the exercises and activities proposed by the instructor.

Office hours

Appointment, scheduled by email

Programme validity

The programs are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH