UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Metodologia della Ricerca Antropologica

2526-1-F0102R001

Course title

Methodologies of the anthropological research

Topics and course structure

The course aims to problematize the conditions of fieldwork, analyzing the concrete research activities, the theoretical elaborations and the textual restitutions. It critically discusses the ethnographic practice in the context of the profound changes in the conditions, functions and aims of the research in the contemporary world. Comparing the classic monographs with the most recent productions, it combines the analysis of the epistemological and theoretical foundations of the different methods with the examination of the ethno-graphic fieldwork techniques and their applications and social uses.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Promoting dialogue between theoretical reflection and ethnographic research in a critical, independent and creative manner.
- Providing solid and systematic knowledge in the field of anthropological sciences, identifying their methodological specificities, interdisciplinary connections and application possibilities.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

- Developping the ability to choose between the different methodologies and skills required by the application

of disciplinary knowledge.
- Starting from the analysis of ethnographic cases, exercising a cross-disciplinary and comparative approach to the critical analysis of contemporary societies.

Autonomy of judgement

- Understanding the complexity of cultural and social processes, using different perspectives, theoretical models and reliable sources.
- Evaluating the consequences of one's actions and decisions, adopting a reflective and ethically responsible attitude.

Communication skills

- Expressing ideas, knowledge and arguments clearly
- Formulating well-founded judgements, integrating the information produced.

Learning skills

- Refining and develop one's own learning methodologies, identifying and elaborating, autonomously and independently, one's own objects and topics of study.

Students are encouraged to participate actively in lessons, increasing their autonomy of judgement and communication skills.

Methodologies

The course consists of 19 lessons (13 in-person lessons and 6 delivered remotely, for a total of 56 hours). All the lessons will be interactive, with an average of 50% of the total hours spent on teaching and 50% on interactive activities. Lessons will be held in Italian.

The course uses diversified methodologies: lectures; class discussions; the use of slides, audiovisual documents provided by the teacher or by the students; participation of researchers presenting their works.

Online and offline teaching materials

Online and offline materials.

Programme and references

The course critically reflects on the relationship between epistemological foundations, theoretical perspectives and methodological applications. It opposes the modern conception of science with the contemporary scientific acquisitions in order to identify the impact of the episteological foundations on the concrete conditions of the research activities, on the microprocesses of everyday life, on the asymmetry of the ethnographic encounter, on the translations across cultural and linguistic boundaries, on ethical problems and on the social role of the anthropologist. It articulates the main methodological problems with the teoretical and ethical options: from the choice of the field and of the object of the research, to the development of the project; from the elaboration of the

ethnographic authority, to the relations with the interlocutors; from the production of data (observation questionnaires, interviews, life stories, etc.) to their organization; from the different ethnographic writings (notes, notes, diaries, final text) to the theoretical elaboration and the return of the results of the research to the various interlocutors, internal or external to the academic world.
Texts in English will be provided to students on request.

Assessment methods

The exam aims at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts. It will asses the acquisition of the specific disciplinary language and the ability to articulate and discuss the topics of the course.
The choice of the oral form is consistent with the objectives of the course. It solicits a dialogic communicative situation and an interaction between teacher and with the student in order to evaluate the ability to critically understand the topics of the course and to connect theory and practice.

Office hours

Before classes by appointment.

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Annalisa Molgora

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS