Experimental collaborations

Anthropological engagements with art, activism and technoscience

An international workshop, organized by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and Intermediae

10 y 11 de septiembre de 2015, Intermediae (Matadero Madrid)

Día I. Jueves 10 de septiembre 16.00 – 20.00 (español)
Arte y antropología: intercambios, contrabandos e inspiraciones cruzadas
Selina Blasco (UCM), Olga Fernández (UCM), Isaac Marrero Guillamón (Goldsmiths), Aida Sánchez de Serdio (MNCARS) y Roger Sansi-Roca (Goldsmiths).

Día II. Viernes 11 de septiembre 10.00 – 20.00 (inglés)
Experimental collaborations: Ethnography through fieldwork devices
Adolfo Estalella (CSIC), Emma Garnett (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Andrea Gaspar (University of Coimbra), Alexandra Kasatkina, (Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration), Isaac Marrero Guillamón (Goldsmiths’, University of London), Tomasz Rakowski (University of Warsaw), Anna Lisa Ramella (Universität Bremen), Tomás Sánchez Criado (Munich Center for Technology in Society, TUM), Maria Schiller (Max Planck Institute), Zinaída Vasilyeva (Russian Academy of National Economy and Administration).
This workshop gathers for discussion a set of anthropological fieldworks that in their engagement with art, science and activism push forward the methodological limits of participant observation in ethnography.

Anthropology has historically consolidated its ethnographic practice of knowledge production around the figure of participant observation, a social and epistemic situation that requires social involvement during fieldwork while at the same time demand a detachment and distance to observe the social worlds under investigation.

Drawing on a set of ethnographies carried on in Africa, America and Europe, the workshop explores modes of doing fieldwork whose form of engagement in the field overflow the notion of participation and whose form of knowledge production cannot be properly characterized as observation. The anthropologists describe their ethnographic fieldworks as forms of ‘experimental collaboration’.

The figure of experimental collaboration intends to describe a mode of fieldwork that is carried on in collaboration with our counterparts in the field through the articulation of instances of epistemic experimentation. It is a mode of doing ethnography that is adjacent, complementary or even substitutive of participant observation.

The figure has a twofold goal. It intends to be a descriptive notion for certain forms of ethnographic fieldwork and it proposes a research and pedagogic program aimed to intervene in current forms of ethnographic practice and learning.

Día I - Jueves 10 de septiembre, 16.00 – 20.00

Arte y antropología: intercambios, contrabandos e inspiraciones cruzadas

La antropología y el arte tienen una larga historia de intercambios, contrabandos e inspiraciones cruzadas y ha dado lugar a argumentos en torno a la “apropiación” (más o menos indebida), la “envidia mutua” (Foster), o la existencia de una “afinidad profunda” (Schneider). Esta sesión busca situar el debate a partir de la discusión de prácticas de investigación y de producción de conocimientos en/tre el arte y la antropología.

Selina Blasco (UCM), Olga Fernández (UCM), Aida Sánchez de Serdio (MNCARS) y Roger Sansi-Roca (Goldsmiths). Moderada por Isaac Marrero Guillamón (Goldsmiths).
Day II - Friday 11th September, 9.30 – 20.00

Experimental collaborations: Ethnography through fieldwork devices

9:30-10:00 Welcome

10:00-10:45 Introduction

Experimental collaborations: Ethnography beyond participant observation, Adolfo Estalella (CSIC) & Tomás Sánchez Criado (Munich Center for Technology in Society, TUM).
Commented by: Isaac Marrero.

10:45-13:00 I. ‘Para-siting’ ethnography

Experimenting with data: ‘Collaboration’ as method and practice in a multi-disciplinary public health project, Emma Garnett (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).
Commented by: Aleksandra Kasatkina and Zinaida Vasilyeva.

11:30-12:00 Break

Experimental collaboration in state organisations: The ‘research traineeship’, Maria Schiller (Max Planck Institute).
Commented by: Andrea Gaspar

Finding one’s rhythm: A mobile ethnography on the road with a touring band, Anna Lisa Ramella (Universität Bremen).
Commented by: Isaac Marrero

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:15-17:30 II. ‘Devicing’ fieldwork

Taking ethnography & design collaborations for a walk: Devicing idiocy, Andrea Gaspar (Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra).
Commented by: Tomasz Rakowski

Commented by: Adolfo Estalella.

15:45-16:15 Break

Ethnography and Art Experiments: A challenge to move towards the collaborative in Rural Poland, Tomasz Rakowski (University of Warsaw).
Commented by: Anna Lisa Ramella

Commented by: Emma Garnett
17:45–18:15 Coffee break

18:15–19:15 Non-present authors

The House of the Experiment, Revised: Collaborating in a Lassa fever project, Almudena Marí Saez (Charité) and Ann Kelly (University of Exeter).

Commented by: Tomás Sánchez Criado.

Interfacing, collaboration and contestation in the Moral Lab 2.0, Karen Waltorp (Aarhus University).

Commented by: Maria Schiller and Aleksandra Kasatkina.

19:15–20:00 General comments and final discussion

This workshop is part of the editing process of a forthcoming book under the title 'Experimental collaboration: Ethnography through fieldwork devices', to be published by Berghahn, EASA Book series. Participants in the workshop will discuss the draft chapters for the book, for those interested in getting a copy send an email to jestalellaf@uoc.edu (Adolfo Estalella) or tomas.criado@tum.de (Tomás Sánchez Criado).

El workshop es abierto y su asistencia es gratuita / This workshop is open and free of charge.

Localización: Intermediae (Matadero Madrid), Paseo de la chopera 14, Madrid.


Con la colaboración y financiación de Intermediae - Matadero Madrid.

The workshop is part of the project ‘Xcol - Experimental collaborations: Ethnography beyond participant observation’ # http://www.xcol.org, is a project curated by Tomás Sánchez Criado and Adolfo Estalella. The project is open to participation.