

CLINICAL REPORT

Clinic of anthropological ethnographic experiments in fieldwork

CLEENIK is a specialized anthropological clinic. We treat anthropologists suffering from the multiple syndromes consequence of ethnographic experiments in fieldwork. If you think you may have suffered any of these syndromes or you want to prevent in case of starting fieldwork, you may just drop by to our session and ask for advice and treatment.

Patient's name:

Affiliation:

Contact details:



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Report Number:

Symptomatology

Please, state in a free but straightforward and thorough manner the nature of your problems in or after fieldwork

Location of fieldwork:

Duration:

Other particulars:

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Symptomatology (continuation)

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Report Number:

Diagnosis

Please, speculate about potential causes or the etiology of your symptoms.

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Treatment

Please consider treatment programmes and courses of individual and collective therapeutic action to tackle the symptoms.

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Final notes

#Colleex

Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation

Colleex is a network that aims to open a space for debate and intervention around experimental forms of ethnographic fieldwork. It seeks to explore novel forms of knowledge production for anthropology.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork has traditionally been understood as the cornerstone epistemic situation for the production of anthropological knowledge in ethnography. Both an empirical practice and disciplinary narrative, we know that nowadays fieldwork is not what it used to be —or maybe it has never been what the canon narrates—. The solitary confined research practice of ethnography has given way to collaborative projects, far-away locations have been replaced by close-to-home field sites, and traditional visual predominance has been expanded into a multi-sensory concern. Anthropological imagination has traditionally understood the epistemic practice of fieldwork in observational terms. The core trope of participant observation has worked both as description and prescription for the kind of social relationships and epistemic practices through which anthropologists produce knowledge in the field. The entrance of anthropology in novel empirical sites and the construction of new objects of study in the last decades seem to require from us to urgently revise and devise other forms of practising fieldwork.

Experimentation

Invoking the figure of the experiment acts as a provocation to investigate alternative epistemic practices in ethnography. Colleex intends to explore the infrastructures, spaces, forms of relationships, methods and techniques required to inject an experimental sensibility in fieldwork. Nevertheless, there is no intention to oppose experimentation to observation. On the contrary, Colleex seeks to discern the multiple forms of relationship between these two epistemic forms —and their correlate modes of relationality— that in different circumstances and situations may be complementary, adjacent or substitutive. Not alien to the anthropological endeavour, experimentation was invoked decades ago as an opportunity to renovate the discipline through novel forms of ethnographic writing and representation. Colleex network would like to further develop that experimental impulse present in many anthropological sensibilities, shifting its locus from the process of writing to the practice of fieldwork. The intention is to work on a question: What would ethnographic fieldwork look like if it was shaped around the epistemic practice of experimentation? Hence, fieldwork experimentation is not being invoked just for its own sake but because there is a prospect that it could help foster new forms of anthropological theorization.

Collaboration

The network seeks to connect with anthropologists and other practitioners of ethnography interested in discussing their fieldwork practice. It could be of interest for specialists in the fields of visual anthropology, sensory anthropology, digital ethnography, design anthropology, creative intersections of art and anthropology, or anthropology and STS. The network also seeks to include specialists from other domains like art, cultural producers, designers and practitioners of any discipline interested in the creative experimentation with ethnographic practice. The inventive unfolding of ethnography taking place in those areas could greatly contribute to strengthen the reach of anthropological fieldwork practices.

This is the proposal to be submitted to the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) to set up a network under the umbrella of the association. We are now open to any people interested in joining the network.

#xcol is an **open anthropological infrastructure** for the research of experimental modes of ethnographic fieldwork. It is a research project and a pedagogic program that seeks to intervene in current forms of ethnographic practice and learning. More on <http://xcol.org>



Common syndromes of ethnographic experimentation

EES - Excess of Engagement Stress

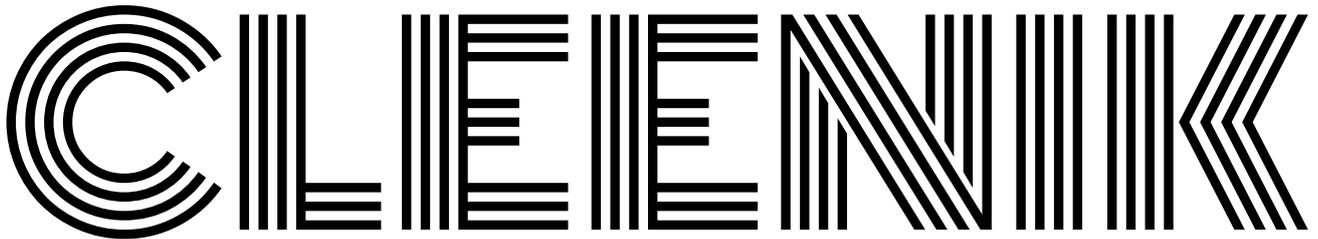
When things between you and your natives get 'too involved' or simply 'become strange'. Symptoms may include permanent conflicts, provocations, an excess of questioning, quarrels, love & hate relationships, irritation, incomprehensions, too much objections...

GN - Goingnativosis

It's that point when you realize you did it all wrong - in the ethnographic process you have become a professional 'native'. Symptoms may include (cultural and/or disciplinary) identity crisis, feeling like a foreign in your own culture, feeling unadapted when back home or even never being able to 'come back' (physically, emotionally, etc).

TRIAD - Transdisciplinary/Interdisciplinary Associative Disorder

"One does not born, but rather becomes, an anthropologist". Symptoms of TRIAD are disciplinar disorientation. In our clinic we make change-of-discipline interventions - from anthropology to other disciplines or from other disciplines to anthropology. You can also choose the hybrid half-way.



Come and share your syndrome in our collective therapy!

You'll feel Other!

This clinical report was produced for the CLEENIK Lab held during the 2016 conference of the European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA), on the 22 July 2016 in Milano. It was organized by Andrea Gaspar, Tomás Sánchez Criado and Adolfo Estalella. The booklet (except the image) is distributed under a Creative Commons license of the type attribution: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>

CLEENIK is an open-source adaptation and a continuation for ethnographic audiences of ColaBoraBora's (<http://www.colaborabora.org>) Klinika (<http://xcol.org/blog/2015/07/kit-de-investigaciones-al-limite>) also an adaptation of an initiative by Maria Salazar, part of her artistic residence at Muelle3 in Bilbao (more info here: <https://muelle3.wordpress.com/category/klinikasoft-klinikasoft>).

CLEENIK, a project by xcol platform for ethnographic experimentation.