



Clinic of anthropological ethnographic experiments in fieldwork

## Ethnographic Disorder Manual

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### **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, mutual aggressions, constant jokes, natives making fun of you/you making fun of them, playful inversion of roles or blurring the boundaries sensation ('natives' becoming the observers and you the object of their scrutiny), blurring the boundaries between the 'ethnographer' role and the personal; frictional effects, unpredictable consequences - and in extreme situations, ethnographic breakdown.

### **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, disciplinary) identity crisis, feeling like a foreign in your own culture, feeling unadapted when back home, becoming too critical about your own culture (the 'things are so much better back there' kind of feeling), feeling a stranger within the anthropologist community, or never being able to 'come back' (physically, emotionally, etc).

### **TRIAD - Transdisciplinary/Interdisciplinary Associative Disorder**

"One does not born, but rather becomes, an anthropologist (or whatever discipline)". The more typical symptoms of TRIAD are disciplinary disorientation. In our clinic we make change-of-discipline interventions - either from anthropology to other disciplines or from other disciplines to anthropology. You can also choose the hybrid half-way.

### **CoFD - Collaborative Fieldwork Disorder**

Your ethnography results from unconventional fieldwork relations or from a collaborative fieldwork process of some kind (between non-humans included) that hardly fits within the lonely, individual, heroic human (usually male) researcher stereotype. Symptoms include confusion about where is the limit of 'intervention' in the field; questions such as: "Who is the ethnographer here?"; distributed fieldwork vertigo sensations.

### **BOTCA - Breach-of-the-Canon Infection**

Your fieldwork does not fit within the 'Participant Observation' canon. Symptoms are: non-recognition of the material collected and/or constantly questioning yourself if "Is this still ethnography?"; anxiety about being socially stigmatized by the anthropological community as not having done a 'real' ethnographic fieldwork.

### **EEB - Ethnographic Experimentation Breakdown**

Constantly blurring the line between ethnography and other modes of producing knowledge; mixing several other methods, including methods from other disciplines or the creation of new ones. Often, it results from a contamination with the methods and epistemic habits of the people with whom the ethnographer interacts with or does ethnography with/about. Symptoms include: boredom with participant observation; epistemic delirium; inter/trans-disciplinary schizophrenia.

### **NO-MS-TM - Non-observatory, multi-sensory, too-material fieldwork syndrome**

When your ethnography results from a process other than 'observation': other sensorial, embodied processes, non-observatory experiences, non-sensorial or even extra-sensorial ones (ex: magical, supernatural ones); Excess of ethnographic 'material' and not knowing how to 'process it' or a material that requires a different kind of treatment. Symptoms may include unconventional uses of the body for producing knowledge and the "How do I know that this is ethnographic material?" kind of feeling.

**But please if you come across other disorders, do not hesitate to compile a new version!**

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