WRITING ANTHROPOLOGY

Location: building 1330, room 18
Schedule: 8.8. - 20.8.2011
Hours: 9-12.30 everyday, student exercises in the afternoon

Readings: Please read all papers before course start. You will find them in the drop box, which you have got access to by invitation from Martin Damgaard (if you are not invited or have troubles, please contact Martin at etnomdl@hum.au.dk).

WEEK ONE (where we generate theoretical insight and data material for the next week)

Every day we use ½ an hour before lunch (12-12.30) to present an exercise for the afternoon. In the afternoon, students work in groups.

1. WRITING CULTURE (NHV, NR, ALD)

Marcus, G & Cushman, D. (1982) Ethnographies as Texts, Annual Review of Anthropology, vol. 11: 25-69

Tyler, S. 1986 ‘Post-Modern Ethnography’ in Marcus, G. & Clifford, J. (eds) Writing Culture. The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography, Berkeley: University of California Press, p. 122-140

Strathern, M (1987): “Out of Context: the Persuasive fictions of Anthropology”, Current Anthropology, vol. 28:3, p. 251-281

Eriksen, T. H. (2006): ‘A Short History of Engagement’ and ‘Altercentric Writing’ in Engaging Anthropology. The case for a public presence. Oxford: Berg, p. 1-21, 115-132

Afternoon Exercise: “write a slide”, or “photography” (a visual image) [introduced by Nina] Dinner for all in the evening
2. THE BASICS OF AN ACADEMIC ARGUMENT (NHV & ALD)

Hastrup, K (2004): Getting it right: Knowledge and evidence in anthropology
Anthropological Theory vol. 4: 455-472,

Afternoon Exercise: make an interview or record a conversation [introduced by Nina]

3. THE ETHOS COMMON TO ANTHROPOLOGY AND LITERATURE (NR & NHV)

Woolf, V. (1938) 'Modern Fiction', in The Common Reader, Harmondsworth, Penguin.
http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks03/0300031h.html#C12

Rapport, N.J. (1997) 'Edifying Anthropology. Culture as Conversation: Representation as Conversation', in A.James, J.Hockey, A.Dawson (eds) After Writing Culture. Epistemology and Praxis in Contemporary Anthropology. London, Routledge.

Showalter, Elaine (1997): “Alien Abduction” in Hystories: hysterical epidemics and modern culture. New York: Columbia University Press, p. 189-201

Sontag, S. (1967) ‘Against Interpretation’, in Against Interpretation, and other essays. New York, Farrar Straus-Giroux.

Afternoon Exercise: reflexivity, interpretation in a group – How does being in a group affect the data gathered? Do all in the group interpret encounters in a commensurate way? [led by Nigel]

4. FORM-GIVING: From experience to formalization and textualisation [NR, ALD]

Geertz, Clifford (1988): ‘Being There’ and ‘Being Here’ in Works and lives: the anthropologist as author. Cambridge: Polity, p. 1-24, 129-149

Iser, Wolfgang (1988) ‘The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach’ in Modern Criticism and Theory, ed. David Lodge. London: Longman.

Rapport, N.J. (2000) "Writing on the Body: The Poetic Life-Story of Philip Larkin", Anthropology and Medicine 7(1), pp. 39-62.

Afternoon Exercise: emphasis on sensation, observation and impression: what can you intuit as a pure observer? How is data written down? [led by Line]
5. INSPIRING TEXTS: Three authors (non-anthropologists) whom we find inspiring (NR, NHV, ALD)

Arnold, Matthew ‘Dover Beach’ [1867][poem]
http://www.geocities.com/suonnoch/Anthology/Dover.html

Woolf, Virginia 1987 ‘The New Dress’ [1927] in The Complete Shorter Fiction, London: Grafton
http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91h/chapter7.html

More will be given when we meet.

Afternoon Exercise: experiment in writing an innovative kind of anthropological text [led by Line/Nigel]

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WEEK TWO (where we introduce writings styles and give feed back on own production)

Each day we start with ½ hour reading of production. Then discussion in groups.
After a break, we give a new example and exercise for the afternoon.

1. INTERVIEW

‘Interviews as Ethnography? Disembodied Social Interaction in Britain.’ by Jenny Hockey 2002 in N. Rapport (ed.) British Subjects: An Anthropology of Britain. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 209-222

Rapport, N. Forthcoming “The interview as a form of talking-partnership: Dialectical, focussed, ambiguous, special”. In J. Skinner (ed.) Anthropology and the Interview, Oxford: Berg.

2. EXPERIENCE

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt (2005): ‘Introduction’, ‘They communicate only in sign language’ and ‘The Economy of Appearances’ in Friction: an ethnography of global connection. Princeton, [N.J.]: Princeton University Press, p. 1-18, 51-77

Klein, A. (2002): On Love and Work. Hypatia 17(2): 133-144
Rapport, Nigel (1997): ‘Hard-Sell or Mumbling “Right” Rudely’ in *Transcendent individual: towards a literary and liberal anthropology*. London: Routledge, p. 141-163

Tsing, A. & P. Ebron: Writing and Rhythm: Call and Response. Downloaded from http://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/writingonwriting/

To be given later: Dalsgaard, A.L. (forthcoming): “Life Between”. In R. Willerslev & C. Suhr (eds), *Transcultural Montage*. Berghahn Books

3. SITUATION

Geertz, C. (1973): The Interpretation of Culture. New York: Basic Books, pp. 412-454 (Balinese Cockfight).

Rapport, Nigel (1997): ‘Hard-Sell or Mumbling “Right” Rudely’ in *Transcendent individual: towards a literary and liberal anthropology*. London: Routledge, p. 141-163

4. MONTAGE

Strathern, Marilyn (1991): *Partial connections*. Savage, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield

Latour, Bruno (1996): ‘Prologue: Who Killed Aramis?’ and ‘An Exciting Innovation’ in *Aramis or the love of technology*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, p. 1-50

Rapport, Nigel (1997): ‘Domino Worlds’ in *Transcendent individual: towards a literary and liberal anthropology*. London: Routledge, p. 106-140

Taussig, Michael T. (1992): ‘Malefisium: State Fetichism’ in *The nervous system*. New York: Routledge, p. 111-140

To be given later: Vohnsen, N. (forthcoming): Labour Days. In R. Willerslev & C. Suhr (eds), *Transcultural Montage*. Berghahn Books

5. Conclusion and planning of essays for exam.