December 2009

New Directions in Participatory Visual Ethnography: Possibilities for Public Anthropology

Krista Harper

University of Massachusetts - Amherst, kharper@anthro.umass.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/anthro_faculty_pubs

Part of the Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Anthropology Department Faculty Publication Series by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.
# The Participatory Digital/Visual Research Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research design</th>
<th>Data Collection</th>
<th>Data Analysis</th>
<th>Dissemination and Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Collaboration**                                                              | Partnership as starting point of research  
Developing research questions together  
Research as a practice, as collective action | Community-based teams or collaborative dyads  
Involvement of wider group of participants | Multiple research products  
Multiple authors  
Discussion of audiences and outcomes  
Exhibition as opportunity for further research |
| **Technology**                                                                 | Appropriate technology  
Partners may value technology and research as "capacity building" | Training and use of digital or visual technologies: digital photography and video, multimedia archives and stories, GPS/GIS, blogging | Modular units versus "whole stories"  
Challenges of presenting complex multimedia projects in journals |
| **Ethics**                                                                    | Ethical principles after Said,  
*Writing Culture*, and feminist anthropology  
Decision to pursue PAR IRB process  
Community IRBs | Training research teams  
Consent in visual research  
Learning the local ethical landscape  
Despite efforts, some researcher/subject distinction persists  
Ongoing reflection and response in situ | Image ethics: attention to the context where images are consumed  
"Circulatory regimes" (Ginsberg): hard to maintain control in digital environments  
Internet: uneven access, may not be inclusive |
| **Knowledge production**                                                       | Research goals: intentions in tension  
What is "interesting and important"?  
Funding and planning, esp. in international | "Emic" perspectives in focus—participants choose where to point the lens  
Metaresearch: anthropologist’s participant observation of participants' observation  
Interplay of perspectives: inside/outside academic/activist anthro/interdisciplinary | Multi-pronged approach  
Accessibility, language  
New venues and forms  
Room for affective and aesthetic elements  
Informed action as a research outcome  
Academic recognition |