

KUL-13206

DIGITAL ANTHROPOLOGY

WiSe 2022/23
Tuesdays, 11:15 - 12:45, AM K12

Dr. Özlem Savaş

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Course description:

This course addresses digital media and cultures through anthropological approaches and ethnographic methodologies. We will examine how practices, spaces, and technologies of digital media (re)shape subjectivities, everyday lives, social relationships, public spheres and political horizons. Through various ethnographic studies, we will discuss significant themes around our contemporary media spheres including: practices and performances of self, place-making, belonging, networks, publics, participation, collaboration, collectivity, and activism. Furthermore, we will study methodologies for carrying out ethnographic research in relation to digital media and apply them in mini-ethnographic research projects to be conducted throughout the semester. We can aim to disseminate findings of your projects in online and open-access format.

Activities and requirements:

Readings: You are required to read the assigned articles and book chapters before classes. Readings will be provided on Moodle.

Attendance and participation: You are required to attend the classes regularly and participate in class discussions by responding to the readings and providing examples. Maximum 3 unexcused absences are allowed throughout the semester (except for the in-class presentations on research projects).

Ethnographic project: You are required to carry out mini-ethnographic research projects on a topic of your choice, individually or in groups, depending on the number of students enrolled. Projects will be conducted during the entire semester through the following stages of feedback and submission:

- Proposal: In-class presentation/feedback and written report (300-500 words).
- Notes from the field: In-class presentation/feedback and written report (600-800 words).
- Final project: In-class presentation/feedback and final essay. Essays must include research findings and literature discussion (1700-2000 words).

Please note that the written submissions are due one week later than presentations so that you can incorporate the feedbacks.

Course schedule:

18. October: Course welcome & Introduction

25. October: Media, mediation, and digital media practices

- Deuze, M. (2011). Media life. *Media, culture & society*, 33(1), 137-148.
- Couldry, N. (2012). "Media as practice" in *Media, society, world: Social theory and digital media practice*. Polity.

1. November: Digital ethnographic methods I

- Ardévol, E., & Gómez-Cruz, E. (2014). Digital ethnography and media practices. *The international encyclopedia of media studies*, 7, 498-518.

Recommended reading: Pink, S., & Morgan, J. (2013). Short-term ethnography: Intense routes to knowing. *Symbolic interaction*, 36(3), 351-361.

8. November: Digital ethnographic methods II

- Postill, J., & Pink, S. (2012). Social media ethnography: The digital researcher in a messy web. *Media International Australia*, 145(1), 123-134.
- Luhtakallio, E., & Meriluoto, T. (2022). Snap-along ethnography: Studying visual politicization in the social media age. *Ethnography*

15. November: Ethnographic project - Proposal

In-class presentations and feedback. Written submissions are due 22. November.

22. November: Practices of self

- Sauter, T. (2014). 'What's on your mind?' Writing on Facebook as a tool for self-formation. *New media & society*, 16(5), 823-839.
- Schüll, N. (2021). Devices and selves: From self-exit to self-fashioning. *Digital Anthropology*, 137-156.

29. November: Place, co-presence and belonging

- Kraemer, J. (2017). Locating Emerging Media: Ethnographic Reflections on Culture, Selfhood, and Place. In *The Routledge Companion to Digital Ethnography* (pp. 205-216). Routledge.
- Bublatzky, C. (2022). Mobile belonging in digital exile: Methodological reflection on doing ethnography on (social) media practices. *Media and Communication*, 10(3).

6. December: Intimate Publics

- Raun, T. (2012). DIY therapy: Exploring affective self-representations in trans video blogs on YouTube. In *Digital cultures and the politics of emotion* (pp. 165-180). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Savaş, Ö. (2019). Affective digital media of new migration from Turkey: Feelings, affinities, and politics. *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 22.

13. December: Activism

- Bonilla, Y., & Rosa, J. (2015). # Ferguson: Digital protest, hashtag ethnography, and the racial politics of social media in the United States. *American ethnologist*, 42(1), 4-17.
- Milan, S., & Barbosa, S. (2020). Enter the WhatsApp: Reinventing digital activism at the time of chat apps. *First Monday*.

20. December: Ethnographic project - Self-study & feedback

No class meeting. I will be available on Zoom during class hours to give feedback.

10. January: Ethnographic project - Notes from the field

In-class presentations and feedback. Written submissions are due 17. January.

17. January: Collaborative and participatory digital research

- Gubrium, A., & Harper, K. (2016). Participatory Visual and Digital Research in Theory and Practice in *Participatory visual and digital methods*. Routledge.
- Waltp, K. (2018). Fieldwork as Interface. *Experimental Collaborations: Ethnography through Fieldwork Devices*, 34, 114.

24. January: Digital storytelling and public ethnography

- Graizbord, D., & McPike, J. (2020). Features and form: Appropriating digital storytelling for public ethnography. *Ethnography*.
- Choose one:
Sawhney, N. (2009). Voices beyond walls: the role of digital storytelling for empowering marginalized youth in refugee camps. In *Proceedings of the 8th international conference on interaction design and children* (pp. 302-305).

Weibert, A., Aal, K., Oertel Ribeiro, N., & Wulf, V. (2017). " This is My Story..." Storytelling with Tangible Artifacts among Migrant Women in Germany. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference Companion Publication on Designing Interactive Systems* (pp. 144-149).

Rutta, C. B., Schiavo, G., & Zancanaro, M. (2019). Comic-based digital storytelling for self-expression: an exploratory case-study with migrants. In *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Communities & Technologies-Transforming Communities* (pp. 9-13).

31. January: Ethnographic project - Self-study & feedback

No class meeting. I will be available on Zoom during class hours to give feedback.

7. February: Ethnographic project - Final

In-class presentations and feedback. Written submissions are due 14. February.