

The Ethnography Circle

November 2021 – April 2022

Understanding the Ethnographic Journey



The Circle is a series of informal, multidisciplinary discussions that alternate presentations by leading ethnographers with group sessions where participants reflect on their ethnographic research practices. In short: an ethnographic self-help group.



Organised with the support of IKON, PPI & Warwick ESRC Doctoral Training Centre

Meeting 2

9th December 2021 15.00-16.30 UK time

Creating Theoretical Memos: strategies, tips and tricks

Memo writing is a critical activity in all types of interpretive qualitative research. Analytic memos writing is integral to the work of doing participant observation. It helps researchers to take a step back from their notes and think about and through their data; identify promising lines of inquiry; and focus further data collection. Analytic memo writing is of great value also to researchers working with others sorts of data – whether documents, artefacts, visual data, transcripts of naturally occurring data, or interviews.

Memo writing is also critical in the latter stages of the project. Memoing is a pivotal intermediate step between coding data and writing the first draft of the analysis. Memo writing is crucial because it keeps researchers in control of their studies. In this interactive session, we will discuss when and how to write memos. We will build on the collective expertise of the participants and other senior colleagues who will share with us some of their memoing practices and memos. **Participants should bring to the session one of their memos (if they have one) and be ready to share it in small online groups.** Please ensure that all the sensitive information is suitably anonymised.

Participation is free but registration is required. To receive the link please write to ethnography@wbs.ac.uk