

NIG Annual Work Conference 2017

Program Panel 3: Ethnography in Public Administration

Maastricht, November 9 & 10, 2017

General set-up:

The panel allocates 30 minutes for each paper, of which 10 minutes presentation time, 5 minutes for the discussant feedback, 15 minutes for the general discussion. We would like to ask both authors and discussants, in addition to presenting and discussing the paper, to specifically reflect on the theme of their session.

This way, we aim to bring our discussions to the next level and to reflect, exchange, inspire, and learn from each other, as we anticipated in our call.

Thematic set-up:

After looking at the various paper proposals, we discovered four thematic themes that were raised in the abstracts; per coincidence they follow the stages of ethnographic research, addressing the challenges that emerge when conducting the study.

The first theme is about defining your field; what is and what is not part of the field you are studying? The papers we have included deal with topics such as network ethnography; how do you grasp the different layers in interactions? How do you follow the field across time, place and space – and when/where to stop?

The second theme discusses the role of the researcher; how do you behave as an ethnographer when in the field? What are the do's and don'ts? How do you balance the inside and outside? What is your influence on the field and the data you gather? And how do you reflect on your role?

The third theme focusses on grasping the field: through which canals do you look at it? Where do you find your data? What can you use? The papers discussed move beyond observations, interviews, and documents, and particularly employ auto-ethnography and archival material.

The fourth theme is about the construction of your ethnographic story: what and how much data do you need to make a claim? What is your freedom as an author to interpret your data? How do you move from data gathering to writing it down? And how to balance empirical insights with theoretical notions when writing?

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Panel chairs: Thomas Schillemans, Merlijn van Hulst, Olga Verschuren & Lianne Visser

	Activity	Perspective	Author	Discussant
Thursday 9/11				
14:45-15:00	Welcome & introduction			
15:00-15:30	Session 1 Immersing in the field	<i>Theme 1: What is your field and where does it end?</i> - Merlijn van Hulst	Kim Loyens	Joram Feitsma
15:30-16:00			Olga Verschuren	Karin Geuijen
16:00-16:30			Rebecca Paraciani	Tim Kind
16:30-16:45	Coffee break			
16:45-17:15	Session 2 Presenting yourself	<i>Theme 2: What is your role in the field?</i> - Lianne Visser	Michel van Slobbe	Olga Verschuren
17:15-17:45			Marlot Kuiper	Lianne Visser
17:45-18:15			Karin Geuijen	Natascha van der Zwan
18:15-18:30	Discussion & wrap-up			
Friday 10/11				
09:30-10:00	Session 3 Gathering the insights	<i>Theme 3: Which data sources do you use, why and how?</i> - Olga Verschuren	Tim Kind	Marlot Kuiper
10:00-10:30			Natascha van der Zwan	Michel van Slobbe
10:30-10:45	Coffee break			
10:45-11:15	Session 4 Crafting the story to tell	<i>Theme 4: Which story about the field can you present?</i> - Thomas Schillemans	Joram Feitsma	Rebecca Paraciani
11:15-11:45			Lianne Visser	Kim Loyens
11:45-12:00	Conclusion & prospects			
12:00-13:00	Plenary NIG Lunch			