



Call for Paper

For the Conference

„Ethnography of Practice – Doing Ethnography“

22. – 24.02.2016, University of Hildesheim

About ten years ago for the first time German-speaking ethnographic educational and social researchers met for a joint conference. Since then the biennial gatherings have not only become more international but the field of ethnographic educational and social research has grown in people and methods and its research results have been carried into practice. Therefore the time has come to reflect methodically on the relation between ethnographic educational research and pedagogic practice, and furthermore on the development of current fields of pedagogic actions. In *keynotes* and *plenary sessions*, the Hildesheimer conference will discuss questions of how to generate empirical research fields, the attitude towards and the position in the fields, and not at least, the standards and characteristics of ethnographic descriptions. In addition further *plenary sessions* will show the development of ethnographic research in pedagogic and social fields and *workshops* will present current research projects.

The conference team is kindly asking for proposals of contributions for the *plenary sessions* towards the following **subjects**:

1. **Practice and field:**

- How are ethnographic research fields and research objects constructed and identified? Which fields are covered and in which way? Are logics of practice re-constructed or are empirical fields constructed?
- How is the practice of ethnographic educational and social research related to the practice of pedagogic and social work? Which differences and similarities exist between them?
- How can ethnographic research be learnt? Which standards and premises apply and how does professionalization occur via familiarization in the practice of ethnographic description? How professional is ethnographic educational research (Scientific standards, professional ethos, legitimation and mandate)?

2. **Position and perspective:**

- Which moral demands do field research and description follow? In what way is the difference between ethnographic analysis and empirical field kept during the research and writing process?
- Which positions and attitudes lead the researcher on his/her way(s) into the field? Which positions are taken in and towards the field and how are these standpoints related to each other? Which measures ensure the self-observations of the observers and where are their limits?
- How is the "other" and the "unfamiliar" identified? Which processes of identification pass post-field and how are they reflected? Do ethnographers go into a field as persons with more knowledge?

3. **Technique and text:**

- By which measures is the field experienced? How is ethnographic research influenced by a growing usage of technology and media?
- To what extent does ethnographic writing still move on uncertain ground? Which means or instruments are taken up to overcome these uncertainties? Which "logic" follows ethnographic writing?
- Compression, traceability and questions of style: What is the difference between ethnography, historio-graphy and bio-graphy?

We also ask for suggestions about contributions for the *plenary sessions* and *workshops*, which will refer to current ethnographic research in pedagogic and social **fields of action** and to the **history and traditions** of ethnographic research in these fields and which discuss any **changes**. (abstract max. 3000 characters, presentation 30 minutes plus discussion) Furthermore current projects shall be discussed methodically during the *workshops*. (abstract max. 6000 characters, 2 presentations á 15-20 minutes plus discussion, collective moderation) Regarding current projects not only classical research areas but also new aspects of ethnographic research and their methods are of high interest and should be proposed for presentation. Current projects can also be discussed in *poster presentations* (abstract max. 3000 characters).

Abstracts for plenary sessions, workshops and poster presentations can be sent until 31st of August, 2015 to: ethno@uni-hildesheim.de

The costs of the conference are 80€ regular and 50€ rebate.

The team of organisation: Kathrin Audehm, Peter Cloos, Michael Corsten, Gunther Graßhoff, Irene Leser, Jessica Schülein, Wolfgang Schröer.