

Fall 2025

**HUMA 5770 Field Research: Theory and Practice**

Course instructor: Ma Jianxiong

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Time & Venue: Room 3494, Lift 25-26, Wednesday, 12:00PM-2:50PM

**Descriptions:**

In this course we explore theories, methods, and techniques in ethnographic field research. The current discussions on writing ethnography and textural representation are also covered in the course. Students are required to start their field research projects at the beginning of semester. The experiences and problems of students' fieldwork will be examined in the seminar.

**Learning outcomes after completion of the course:**

- Understand the anthropological approach of conducting field research.
- Understand the advantages and limitations of the anthropological field research method.
- Acquire a holistic perspective in conducting field research.
- Master the basic field research techniques.

**Texts:**

Crang, Mike and Cook, Ian

2007 *Doing Ethnographies*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson

2007 *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. London (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.): Routledge.

**Seminar Topics, Readings, and Assignments:**

**Week 1 (September 3). Course organization, field work, nature of culture and ethnography**

**Week 2 (September 10). Fieldtrip**

**Week 3 (September 17). Choosing a field site; research proposal**

**Week 4. (September 24). Participant-observation and Audio-visual recording**

**Week 5 (October 8). Field notes**

**Week 6 (October 15). Interviewing and key informants**

**Week 7 (October 22). Life history, oral history and local document (I)**

**Week 8 (November 5). Life history, oral history and local document (II)**

**Week 9 (November 12). Fieldwork ethnic & Working with online communities &**

**Week 10 (November 19). Strategies of analyses**

**Week 11 (November 26) Writing ethnography**

**Week 12. Project presentations (to be announced)**