Fieldwork Accounts

For this assignment, you will read an essay-length first-person account of ethnographic fieldwork and write a brief (maximum 1 page single-spaced) review. We will talk about these next week in class. Focus the review on the following, where information is available:

1. What epistemological perspective (see Bernard) does the fieldworker hold?
2. What research questions (if any) motivated the research?
3. What types of data did the ethnographer collect (or try to collect), and how did s(he) go about it?
4. Why were those methods chosen?
5. What problems did the ethnographer encounter?
6. How did s(he) solve them?
7. What lessons can we learn from this ethnographer’s experience?
8. Is there anything that the ethnographer did that you would do differently?

Some Titles

A list of a few edited collections with appropriate essays is given below, and there are others nearby on the shelves. Please do not keep any book out for more than a day.


Women in the field : anthropological experiences, edited by Peggy Golde; 1986; GN20 .W65 1986


Anthropologists in the field: cases in participant observation. edited by Hume and Mulcock. 2004 GN346.4 .A68