Notes from the Division Chair, Chris Poulos

In a few weeks, I will attend my 18th NCA Convention. I know, some of you have been doing this much longer. Others are just starting this journey. Either way, I think I can save you some time.

Now, I’ll admit that I was, at first, well…lost. So many people, so many choices! How on earth would I navigate such murky, diverse, overstocked territory? It was like a typical American grocery store. How to make sense of the cereal aisle? So many choices...so many people...so much to do...so many angles.

So I did what I was learning to do in my “Qualitative Research Methods” graduate course: I poked around the neighborhood, to see if I could figure out what was going on. I observed. I participated. I searched. I re-searched. And, a few years into my (ethnographic) NCA study, I heard about this new Division focused on Ethnography. This sounded cool—a “methods” division...wow, right up my alley! At the time, I was fresh from the life changing events of reading Bud Goodall’s Casing a Promised Land, and conducting and publishing my first ethnographic project. So I stumbled into the Division’s first business meeting…and, immediately, I knew I was home. “These are my people,” I thought to myself. There was Nick Trujillo, mullet intact, though he didn’t appear to know it was a mullet (he was, well, too cool for words).

See “Notes” on page 2

Preconference: Illuminating the Backstage Practices of Analysis

This year’s ethnography preconference (Nov 20th, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), organized by Sarah J. Tracy, will focus on the backstage practices of ethnographic analysis. Historically, the ethnography division and communication discipline have done a pretty good job elucidating issues of collecting ethnographic and qualitative data as well as writing, performing, and representing it.

This preconference focuses on explicit instruction on the ephemeral process that occurs in between data collection and representation—analyzing and making sense of data that is qualitative, narrative, textual, visual and naturalistic. For practicing data analysis.

See “Preconference” on page 3 for more...
Notes, continued from p. 1

There was Bud Goodall, holding forth in his rich, multi-tonal voice (I always liked hearing his voice at least as much as I liked reading his words). There were Carolyn Ellis and Art Bochner and a cast of characters from the books and articles I’d been devouring for the past few years...I mean, these were (and are) not only my academic heroes, but, like I said, my people, right here in the room with me.

I had arrived.

Each year, when I arrive at NCA, I seek out my fellow ethnographers immediately. I attend their panels; I share panel space with them. And, when I go home, I am not only energized by the incredible work of my wonderful colleagues, I feel connected across time and space with people who share these magical moments before, during, and between our panels and performances.

So, like I said, I think I can save you some time. Just search the program by sponsor/co-sponsor, select “Ethnography Division” and you will have much of your schedule right there. Of course, you’ll want to play around with our pals in other divisions too, but... really...Tony Adams has put together a magnificent program, and I know you’ll want to make the most of it!

Besides, as I discovered along the way, this is not a “methods” division, after all. It’s a “way of life” division!

And the Award Goes to...

Legacy Award to Carolyn Ellis & Bob Krizek for outstanding long-term contributions

Best Monograph to Robin M. Boylorn for Sweetwater: Black Women and Narratives of Resilience

Best Edited Collection for Handbook of Autoethnography edited by Stacy Holman Jones, Tony E. Adams & Carolyn Ellis

Best Published Article to Kristen Blinne for “Auto (erotic) Ethnography” published in Sexualities

Best Book Chapter to Laura Ellingson for “Interview as Embodied Communication” in the Handbook of Interview Research

Best Special Issue to Tony E. Adams and Stacy Holman Jones for “On Studying Ourselves and Others” in Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies

Best Audio/Visual Ethnography to Lisa M. Tillman for Remembering a Cool September


Thanks to the members of the Awards Committee for their service to the Division:

Best Article: Robin Ellingson (Chair), J. Jacob Jenkins, & Chaim Noy

Best Book: Laura Ellingson (Chair), Robin Boylorn, & Debbie Way

Best Book Chapter: Shane Morman (Chair), Robin Boylorn, & Debbie Way
Preconference continued from p. 1

Such a workshop is valuable due to journal article deductive writing conventions and space limitations, merely reading ethnography often does not provide the pedagogical backstories that are so helpful for practicing data analysis. This preconference gathers together scholars known for a variety of ethnographic and qualitative analytic approaches including:

- Discourse Tracing; Phronetic Iterative Analysis; Rhetorical Analysis in Ethnographic Studies: From Local to Global Projects; Ethnographic Event Analysis; Writing and Autoethnography as a Method of Inquiry; Ethnographic Analysis in Mixed Method Studies; Narratives as Riddles: Guiding Principles of Narrative Analysis

Participants will have the opportunity to workshop a sub-set of these approaches in small breakout sessions.

Outcomes include: Networking with qualitative researchers; an overview of different ethnographic analysis approaches; In-depth data analysis workshopping; and pedagogical data analysis resources to use in future research and teaching.

Register at NCA Submission Central.

Report from the Vice Chair, Tony E. Adams

This year, NCA allocated 21 time slots to the Ethnography Division. One of these slots is used for the business meeting; the remaining 20 slots were used for competitive paper and panel submissions.

The division received 66 paper submissions: 39 were accepted, 27 were rejected (59% acceptance rate). The division also received 20 panel submissions: 12 were accepted, 8 were rejected (60% acceptance).

Mark Your Calendar!

DO mark your calendar for one of our most important moments during the convention—the Ethnography Division Business Meeting, which will be held on Friday, November 22 at 2:00-3:15 p.m. in the Washington Room 4 (Exhibit Level) of the Marriott Wardman Park.

Conveniently, you’ll already be in the room, since our Top Papers in Ethnography panel will convene at 12:30 in that very spot. You will not want to miss either of these excellent events!

Have a Question? Contact your Division Officers

Chair: Chris Poulos, cnpoulos@uncg.edu
Vice Chair: Tony E. Adams, a-adams3@neiu.edu
Vice-Chair Elect: Sarah J. Tracy, sarah.tracy@asu.edu
Secretary: Jillian A. Tullis, jillian.tullis@uncc.edu
Immediate Past Chair: Lisa M. Tillmann, Ltilmann@rollins.edu

“PROFESSORS OF THE 21ST CENTURY WILL NEED TO ADOPT A FAR MORE INTERACTIONAL, INTERDEPENDENT, & INTERDISCIPLINARY MODEL FOR TEACHING ETHNOGRAPHY.”

—NICK TRUJILLO
Top Paper Panel presentations begin at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 22nd in the Washington Room 4 (Exhibit Level) of the Marriott Wardman Park.

Congratulations to the Top Paper Honorees.

“Judgement Days: Indian Tales at the Concurso Artesanal in Michocan, Mexico,” Pavel Shlossberg, Gonzaga University


“The Architecture of Erasure: Exploring Absences, Ruptures, Negotiations and Self-making in Families Organizing Around Mental Illness,” Heather Curry, University of South Florida

“Confessions of a Video Vixen: An Intersectional Approach to the Body as Mass Property,” Amber Johnson, Prairie View A&M University

Affiliate Awards Sponsored by the Division

The following awards are given at the Division meeting, but are sponsored by affiliate organizations.

2013 David R. Maines Narrative Research Award also sponsored by the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research (CCCSIR)

“Narrative Freedom,” Robert Zussman (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

2013 Ellis-Bochner Autoethnography and Personal Narrative Research Award sponsored by the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Affiliate of the National Communication Association

“Frustrating the ‘I’: Critical Dialogic Reflexivity with Personal Voice” in Text & Performance Quarterly by Dustin Bradley Goltz

Congratulations to these award winners!
Thank you for reviewing submissions for the 2013 annual convention in Washington, DC

**ETHNOGRAPHY DIVISION NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**

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