Anthropological Research and COVID-19:
A Bibliography

Prepared by Brooke Jespersen, April 5, 2021

This bibliography accompanies the roundtable, "The Best-Laid Plans: Adapting Research to COVID-19," organized by Brooke Jespersen for the 2021 SPA meeting. During the roundtable, the contributors—Eileen Anderson-Fye, Ramsey Ismail, Brooke Jespersen, Sonya Pritzker, Julia Sloane, and Jordan Wondrack Zaidi—explored what it means to conduct research anthropologically during COVID-19, with an emphasis on graduate student dissertation research. They also considered the potentially enduring implications of COVID-19 for a post-pandemic anthropology. This bibliography provides additional sources on anthropological research and COVID-19, including: reflections on relationships between COVID-19, anthropological research, and the future; alternative methods to in-person field work; digital ethnography; and teaching anthropology during a pandemic.

Part 1: Reflections on COVID-19, Anthropological Research, and the Future

In this section, the authors grapple with ethics, methods, and the types of questions anthropologists should ask during the current pandemic and beyond. Should anthropologists conduct research during the pandemic? How might anthropologists conduct research anthropologically yet remotely? How does the pandemic influence the types of questions anthropologists can and should ask? How can anthropologists engage their research ethically? As the pandemic highlights inequalities within academia and among the people we study, how should anthropologists respond? These readings wrestle with these questions and consider the potentially lasting impact of the pandemic on anthropology.

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Bloch, Leigh. "Academic Precarity and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Utopian Hope in a Moment of Crisis." *Anthropology Now* 12, no. 1 (2020): 76-83. https://doi.org/10.1080/19428200.2020.1761214

Boellstorff, Tom. "Notes from the Great Quarantine: Reflections on Ethnography after COVID-19." *The Wenner-Gren Blog*, June 19, 2020. http://blog.wennergren.org/2020/06/the-future-of-anthropological-research-ethics-questions-and-methods-in-the-age-of-covid-19-part-i/

Di Fiore, Anthony. "Field Work and Futures during the Coronavirus 'Anthropause.'" *The Wenner-Gren Blog*, July 6, 2020. http://blog.wennergren.org/2020/07/the-future-of-anthropological-research-ethics-questions-and-methods-in-the-age-of-covid-19-part-2/

Günel, Gökçe, Saiba Varma, and Chika Watanabe. "A Manifesto for Patchwork Ethnography."
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Mkhwanazi, Nolwazi. "Doing Anthropology in the Time of COVID: Questions, Methods, and
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   future-of-anthropological-research-ethics-questions-and-methods-in-the-age-of-covid-19-
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   research-ethics-questions-and-methods-in-the-age-of-covid-19-part-i/.

Ramos-Zayas, Ana Y. "Preliminary Thoughts on Ethics, Purpose, and Anthropology Beyond
   Covid-19." *The Wenner-Gren Blog*, June 19, 2020.
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Rutherford, Danilyn. "The Future of Anthropological Research: Ethics, Questions, and Methods
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   questions-and-methods-in-the-age-of-covid-19-part-i/.

Thomas, Deborah A. "The Problem of Future-Thinking." *American Anthropologist* 122, no. 3
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Part 2: Methods–Alternatives to In-Person Fieldwork

For most anthropologists, the pandemic has rendered the "field," at least in the traditional sense,
off-limits. The readings in this section offer alternatives to in-person fieldwork, such as photo
voice elicitation, phone and zoom interviews, archival research, and journaling. These readings
should be considered alongside Lupton's (2020) extensive, crowd-sourced bibliography, "Doing

Fieldwork in a Pandemic." Rather than duplicate those sources here, this section focuses on sources not included in Lupton's bibliography.

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"The Pandemic Journaling Project." University of Connecticut. Accessed March 22, 2021. https://pandemic-journaling-project.chip.uconn.edu/

Weller, Susie. "Using Internet Video Calls in Qualitative (Longitudinal) Interviews: Some Implications for Rapport. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 20 (2017): 613–625, https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2016.1269505

Part 3: Methods—Digital Ethnography/Ethnography of Virtual Worlds

The readings in this section take the internet as fieldsite or field focus. Challenging distinctions between virtual and "real," these readings develop methodologies and theories for investigating the social, political, spiritual, etc. activities that are carried out online. For overview, see Pritzker 2020.

Abidin, Crystal. "Somewhere between Here and There: Negotiating Researcher Visibility in a Digital Ethnography of the Influencer Industry." *Journal of Digital Social Research* 2, no. 1 (2020): 56-76.

Abidin, Crystal, and Gabriela de Seta. "Introduction: Private Messages from the Field: Confessions on Digital Ethnography and Its Discomforts." *Journal of Digital Social Research* 2, no. 2 (2020): 1-19.

Alper, Meryl. "Inclusive Sensory Ethnography: Studying New Media and Neurodiversity in Everyday Life." *New Media & Society* 20, no. 10 (2018): 3560-3579.

Boellstorff, Tom. "The Ability of Place: Digital Topographies of the Virtual Human on Ethnographia Island." *Current Anthropology* 61, no. 21 (2020): 109-122.

Bluteau, Joshua M. "Legitimising Digital Anthropology through Immersive Cohabitation: Becoming an Observing Participant in a Blended Digital Landscape." *Ethnography* (2019). https://doi.org/10.1177/1466138119881165.

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Hallett, Ronald E., and Kristen Barber. "Ethnographic Research in a Cyber Era." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 43, no. 3 (2014): 306-330.

Horst, Heather, and Daniel Miller. *Digital Anthropology*. London: Berg, 2012.

Keeley-Browne, Elizabeth. "Cyber-Ethnography: The Emerging Research Approach for 21st Century Research Investigation." In *Handbook of Research on Transformative Online Education and Liberation: Models for Social Equality*, edited by G. Kurubacak, 330-339. Pennsylvania: IGI Global, 2010.

Markham, Annette N. "Ethnography in the Digital Internet Era: From Fields to Flows, Descriptions to Interventions." In *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, edited by N. Denzin and Y. Lincoln, 650-668. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2017.

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Pink, Sarah, Heather Horst, John Posthill, Larissa Hjorth, Tania Lewis, and Jo Tacchi. *Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practice*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2016.

Pritzker, Sonya. "Doing Online Ethnography: An Overview of Central Issues and Methodological Strategies." *University of Alabama*, April 25, 2020. https://spritzker.people.ua.edu/uploads/6/0/3/8/60383273/pritzker_2020- _guide_for_conducting_online_ethnography.pdf

Sanjek, Roger T. and Susan W. Tratner (eds). *Efieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology in the Digital World*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.

Sumiala, Johanna, and Minttu Tikka. "Digital Media Ethnographers on the Move: An Unexpected Proposal." *Journal of Digital Social Research* 2, no. 1 (2020): 56-76.

Underberg, Natalie M., and Elayne Zorn. *Digital Ethnography: Anthropology, Narrative, and New Media*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014.

Part 4: Teaching Anthropology During a Pandemic

In this section, anthropologists consider the challenges and opportunities of online learning, suggest tips for teaching anthropology during the pandemic, and provide examples of classroom activities.

Biehl, Joao, and Oneu Gunay. "How to Teach Anthropology in a Pandemic?" *Somatosphere*, May 25, 2020. http://somatosphere.net/2020/how-to-teach-anthropology-in-a- pandemic.html/

Babatunde Adedoyin, Olasile, and Emrah Soykan. "Covid-19 Pandemic and Online Learning: The Challenges and Opportunities." *Interactive Learning Environments* (2020): 1-13, DOI: 10.1080/10494820.2020.1813180

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