

# Ethnographic and qualitative research methods

## A School of Psychology and Psychiatry Short Course

This short course provides theoretical and practical training to researchers wishing to use ethnographic and/or qualitative research methods. You will be introduced to the basic philosophy and principles of the collection and analysis of ethnographic data. Tools and data analysis techniques are related to applied medical anthropological issues. You will undertake small group work and conduct a variety of field exercises, with notes from these exercises submitted to the instructors for their informal evaluation and advice. You will be taught skills in interviewing, group discussion, direct observation, the structured collection of information, and the maintenance and expansion of field notes. Discussion will also relate to issues of reliability and validity, representativeness, iteration and triangulation.

### Course dates

Wednesday 8–Tuesday 14 February, 2012

### Teaching and learning objectives

- Present an overview of ethnographic and qualitative research methods
- Introduce the basic tools and techniques of qualitative field research, including the relevance and importance of collecting quantitative and qualitative data
- Provide practical experience of basic methods such as: interviewing, focus group discussions, developing a questionnaire and structured observations; and
- Introduce the basic elements of data analysis for qualitative materials

Participants will be expected to undertake a series of overnight and weekend exercises during the course, aimed at providing them with hands-on qualitative and ethnographic research skills.

### Workshop program

#### Wednesday 8 February, 2012

- Introduction to ethnographic and qualitative research
- Epistemology of ethnographic and qualitative methods
- Matching research questions, methods and settings; selecting field-sites

#### Thursday 9 February, 2012

- Participant observation
- Surveying the setting
- Walkthroughs and maps, observation techniques and tools
- Observation exercise

#### Friday 10 February, 2012

- Research ethics
- Introduction to interviewing
- Focus groups
- Research trauma

#### Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 February, 2012

- Weekend exercises: Observations and interviews

#### Monday 13 February, 2012

- Mind mapping
- Data management and coding
- Thematic analysis and theory building

#### Tuesday 14 February, 2012

- Mixed methods and advanced techniques
- Participatory methods
- Reliability and validity



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### Registration and Payment

Registration is essential. No registrations will be accepted after 6 February 2012. Registrations with credit card payment must be made through <http://ecommerce.med.monash.edu.au> under the category 'School of Psychology and Psychiatry'.

If you have queries about registration or form of payment please contact Professor Lenore Manderson on 9903 4047 or [lenore.manderson@monash.edu](mailto:lenore.manderson@monash.edu)

When registering you will be required to provide the following details about your research project:

- Your research topic/title;
- A summary of your research project (maximum 100 words); and
- Special areas of interest or skills acquisition.

### Five day short course cost (GST Inclusive)

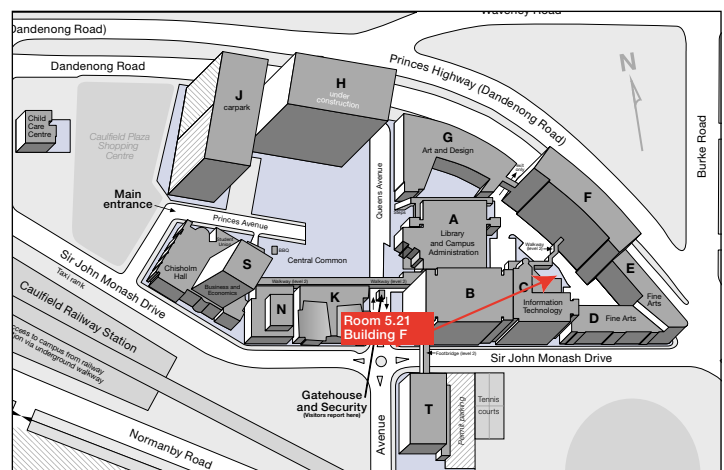
External participant	\$2200
Monash staff/Non-Monash student (University ID required)	\$1100
Monash student (Monash student ID required)	\$550

### Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received in writing before 19 January, 2012 will receive a 50 per cent refund. Cancellations after this date will not be refunded.

### Location

School of Psychology and Psychiatry  
Monash University  
Building F, Room 5.21  
Caulfield campus



**Jill Astbury**, PhD, is a member of the Australian Psychological Society and its College of Health Psychology. She is an Adjunct Principal Research Fellow and the Co Chair of the Coordinating Group of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative. Her research on the impact of human rights violations especially gender based violence on women's mental health has been conducted in Australia, Cambodia, India and Africa. She has run intensive research methods workshops in all these settings and has a particular interest in researcher trauma resulting from engagement with traumatic material.

**Rachel Canaway** is a Research Fellow, managing a multi-phased, mixed methods study investigating self-management and use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) by people with chronic conditions. She previously worked for the Centre for Health Systems Development at La Trobe University, and has a particular interest in medical pluralism, professionalisation, and the history and philosophy of medicine, including CAM.

**Cameron Duff**, PhD, holds a Monash Fellowship, with particular interests in the study of place, health and social inclusion, in relation to youth development, drug and alcohol use, and mental health. He has worked in Canada and Australia, and is presently exploring the social, affective and material dimensions of health and recovery for people living with a serious mental illness. He is especially interested in epistemology, place-based research, and the empowering ways of using photograph and video in research projects.

**Lenore Manderson**, PhD, FASSA, FWAAS is an inaugural ARC Federation Fellow and Professor of Medical Anthropology. Her research on infectious and chronic conditions, disability, gender and inequality, within the broad fields of anthropology, social history and public health has been conducted in Australia, South East and East Asia, and Africa. She has run intensive research methods, protocol development, and writing workshops in all these settings, and brings this experience to the classroom. Her most recent book is *Surface Tensions* (2011). She is editor of the international journal, *Medical Anthropology*.

**Tamasin Ramsay**, PhD, is an Adjunct Research Fellow, and an anthropologist and paramedic with particular interests in the anthropology of religion, disaster and public health. She is the NGO representative to the United Nations for the Brahma Kumaris, a member of the New York City Medical Reserve Corps and the American Red Cross. Her doctoral research involved multisite ethnography, including field research in New York City and in Orissa, India.

**Katie Vasey**, PhD, is a Research Fellow, and conducts ethnographic research in medical anthropology and public health with refugee and migrant populations. She is currently involved in an ARC research project exploring the interrelationship between immigration, parenthood and identity with Iraqi women in Australia. Her interest is the use of ethnographic methods in complex settings for policy-relevant research.

**Narelle Warren**, PhD, conducts qualitative and ethnographic research into how understandings and experiences of chronic conditions vary according to gender, age, geographical location, and culture. She holds a NHMRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to investigate trajectories of stroke and Parkinson's disease in European- and Indian-Australian communities. She is interested in formal analytic approaches and techniques to analyse qualitative data, and has run workshops on this in Malaysia and Australia.