

Where is the Theory in my Data? The role of theory in Ethnographic Research

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Admission is free and open to students from other institutions

All events are held in the Wolfson Research Exchange CV4 7AL



The Circle is a series of informal, multidisciplinary discussions which alternate presentations by leading ethnographers with group sessions where participants reflect on their ethnographic research practices. In short: an ethnographic self-help group.

In this year's edition, we address the process of theorising in ethnography and how theory fits into ethnographic research. This is often a chicken and egg question that plagues much of qualitative research including ethnography - what comes first theory or data? And how to move from one to the other? We know that good ethnography is usually theory-driven (Wilson & Chaddha, 2009). However, the relationship between the two is complicated and worth to be examined in details.

Drawing on the experience of the participants and the expert speakers, during our friendly and welcoming meetings we will explore questions such as: How do different fields of social research use theory in ethnographic research? What counts as theory in ethnographic work? What is the difference between inductive, deductive and abductive theorising? How do we balance description and analysis? How can we do theory when we are not using texts? These are some of the questions that drive this year's Circle, where we are concerned with how theory fits into ethnographic research.

Ila Bharatan and Davide Nicolini
(Warwick Business School)

Meetings

- 19th November: Seminar with Alice Mah (Warwick University)
- 10th December: Seminar with Catherine Pope (Oxford University)
- 14th January: "Good" Theorising in Ethnographic Work
- 20th February: Workshop on Crafting Papers for Publication with Gerardo Patriotta (Warwick University)
- 12th March: Knowledge Sharing Session on Moving from Data Analysis to Theorising
- 30th April : Seminar with Tammar Zilber (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

For information and to register please contact: ethnography@wbs.ac.uk