

The Ethnography Circle

Understanding the Ethnographic Journey

First Meeting 9th November 2021, 1500 – 1630 GMT



From Observing to Theorizing: Ideas from an ethnography of a crime lab – Beth Bechky, NYU Stern



Beth Bechky is the Seymour Milstein Professor of Ethics and Corporate Governance and Strategy at the Stern School of Business and a professor of sociology (by courtesy) at New York University.

Beth's recent book, *Blood, Powder and Residue: How Crime Labs Translate Evidence into Proof*, has just been published by Princeton University Press. In it, she shows how the work of forensic scientists is fraught with the tensions of serving justice—constantly having to anticipate the expectations of the world of law and the assumptions of the public—while also staying true to their scientific ideals.

As an organizational ethnographer, Beth's research reveals the technical complexity of the modern workplace. She studies how workers collaborate to solve problems, struggle to coordinate, and manage the challenges of technological change. In addition to Beth's in-depth engagement in a crime lab, in previous projects she locked up sets and made copies as a production assistant in the film industry, assembled semiconductor equipment in a clean room, and assisted technicians in a biotech lab.

Beth's interest in the workplace began as a research associate at Xerox PARC, followed by faculty appointments at the Wharton School, UC Davis and her current position at NYU. She earned a doctoral degree in Industrial Engineering and a masters degree in Sociology from Stanford University and an undergraduate degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.

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Admission is free and open to students from other institutions

Session will be hybrid at WBS and over Zoom. [Link](#) to online session and readings will be provided to registered participants

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