

THE LOST ETHNOGRAPHIES

Methodological Insights from
Projects that Never Were

Edited by Robin James Smith
and Sara Delamont

STUDIES IN QUALITATIVE
METHODOLOGY

VOLUME 17

THE LOST ETHNOGRAPHIES

STUDIES IN QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

Series Editor: Dr. Sam Hillyard

Volumes in this Series:

- Volume 1: Conducting Qualitative Research
- Volume 2: Reflection on Field Experience
- Volume 3: Learning About Fieldwork
- Volume 4: Issues in Qualitative Research
- Volume 5: Computing and Qualitative Research
- Volume 6: Cross-Cultural Case Study
- Volume 7: Seeing Is Believing? Approaches to Visual Research
- Volume 8: Negotiating Boundaries and Borders
- Volume 9: Qualitative Urban Analysis
- Volume 10: Qualitative Housing Analysis: An International Perspective
- Volume 11: New Frontiers in Ethnography
- Volume 12: Ethics in Social Research
- Volume 13: Big Data? Qualitative Approaches to Digital Research
- Volume 14: Gender Identity and Research Relationships
- Volume 15: Perspectives on and from Institutional Ethnography
- Volume 16: Emotion and the Researcher: Sites, Subjectivities and Relationships

STUDIES IN QUALITATIVE
METHODOLOGY VOLUME 17

**THE LOST
ETHNOGRAPHERS:
METHODOLOGICAL
INSIGHTS FROM PROJECTS
THAT NEVER WERE**

EDITED BY

ROBIN JAMES SMITH

Cardiff University, UK

and

SARA DELAMONT

Cardiff University, UK



United Kingdom – North America – Japan
India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2019

Copyright © 2019 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78714-774-4 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-78714-773-7 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-78743-931-3 (Epub)

ISSN: 1042-3192 (Series)



ISOQAR certified
Management System,
awarded to Emerald
for adherence to
Environmental
standard
ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985
ISO 14001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

CONTENTS

<i>List of Contributors</i>	vii
Editorial Introduction <i>Robin James Smith and Sara Delamont</i>	1
Chapter 1 Periwigs in Prague: The Opera Project We Never Did <i>Sara Delamont and Paul Atkinson</i>	17
Chapter 2 Remarks from a Lost Engagement with the Engaging Ordinarity of Parkour <i>Robin James Smith</i>	31
Chapter 3 Losing Bigfoot <i>Jamie Lewis and Andrew Bartlett</i>	47
Chapter 4 A Sociological Case of Stand-up Comedy: Censorship, Offensiveness and Opportunism <i>David Calvey</i>	65
Chapter 5 Researching Underwater: A Submerged Study <i>Susie Scott</i>	79
Chapter 6 Flat Claps and Dengue Fever: A Story of Ethnographies Lost and Found in India <i>Sally Campbell Galman</i>	95
Chapter 7 Losing the Students in a School Ethnography: Anthropology and the Puzzle of Holism <i>Martin Forsey</i>	109
Chapter 8 What Happens When You Take Your Eye Off the Ball? Reflecting on a ‘Lost Study’ of Boys’ Football, Uneven Playing Fields and the Longitudinal Promise of <i>Esprit De Corps</i> <i>Dawn Mannay</i>	123

Chapter 9 Exorcising an Ethnography in Limbo <i>Katy Vigurs</i>	133
Chapter 10 Finding the Lost Thing under the Binds of a Neglected Thesis Cover <i>Janean Robinson</i>	147
Chapter 11 The Edges and the End: On Stopping an Ethnographic Project, on Losing the Way <i>Katie Fitzpatrick</i>	165
<i>Index</i>	177

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Atkinson is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Cardiff University, UK. His current interest is the work of artists and craft workers. His books include: *Thinking Ethnographically* (Sage, 2017), *For Ethnography* (Sage, 2014), *Everyday Arias* (AltaMira, 2006), *Interactionism*, co-authored with William Housley (Sage, 2003) and *Key Themes in Qualitative Research*, co-authored with Amanda Coffey and Sara Delamont (AltaMira, 2003). Sara Delamont and himself were the Founding Editors of the journal *Qualitative Research* (Sage). He co-edited the *Sage Handbook of Ethnography* (2001). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales.

Andrew Bartlett is a Sociologist of Science at the Universities of York and Sheffield, UK. He has published papers on psychiatric genetics, bioinformatics and public engagement, and is conducting research on epigenetics and gene editing. Perhaps relevant to a (lost) ethnography of Bigfoot, he has also written about the collectivities of ‘fringe’ physics.

David Calvey is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), UK. Prior to working at MMU he held teaching and research positions at the University of Manchester, Liverpool John Moores University, The Open University, in the UK, and was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Queensland, Australia. His publications and research interests span ethnography, covert research, humour studies, martial arts, ethnomethodology, organisational creativity, interpersonal violence, private security and the night-time economy. He is a member of the British Sociological Association and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His recent book is *Covert Research: The Art, Politics and Ethics of Undercover Fieldwork* (Sage, 2017).

Sara Delamont, FAcSS, is a Reader Emerita in Sociology at Cardiff University, UK. She currently conducts fieldwork on *capoeira*, the Brazilian dance-fight game, and *savate*, the French kickboxing martial art. Her most recent book is Sara Delamont, Neil Stephens and Claudio Campos, *Embodying Brazil: An Ethnography of Diasporic Capoeira* (Routledge, 2017). Her previous books include *Feminist Sociology* (Sage, 2003), *Key Themes in the Ethnography of Education* (Sage, 2014) and *Fieldwork in Education Settings* (Third edition, Routledge, 2016). Together with Paul Atkinson she was Founding Editor of the journal *Qualitative Research* (Sage). She was one of the Editors of the *Sage Handbook of Ethnography* (Sage, 2001). She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. She is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Awards from the British Sociological Association and the British Education Research Association.

Katie Fitzpatrick is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her research and teaching are focussed on issues of health education, physical education and sexuality, as well as critical ethnographic and poetic methods. She is particularly concerned with the experiences of diverse youth in schools at the intersection of health, physicality, ethnicity, place, social class and gender/sexuality. She has published numerous articles and book chapters in these areas, as well as an international award-winning sole authored book *Critical Pedagogy, Physical Education and Urban Schooling* (Peter Lang, 2013). She has also co-edited an international collection on health education in schools (*Health Education: Critical Perspectives*, Routledge, 2014). Katie is currently a recipient of a five-year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship from the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Martin Forsey is an Educational Sociologist/Anthropologist with particular interests in the social and cultural effects of schooling and tertiary education. An award-winning teacher, Martin has an abiding interest in the scholarship of teaching. He also has an extensive list of research publications including books on neoliberal reform of government schooling and school choice and a range of papers reflecting his interest in qualitative research methods, social change, schools and society and education and mobility. His profile also reflects a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research.

Sally Campbell Galman is a Professor of Child and Family Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA, and Co-Editor in Chief of *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*. As an anthropologist of childhood and a visual artist, her arts-based ethnographic research focusses on the study of childhood, gender and schooling, especially among young transgender or gender nonconforming children. Her ethnographic research has been supported by the Spencer Foundation. Her website is www.SallyCampbellGalman.com

Jamie Lewis is a Lecturer in Sociology at Cardiff University, UK. His research interests coalesce around the sociology of science and technology studies, public understanding of science and medical sociology. He has published papers on bio-informatics, psychiatric genetics, stem cell research and public engagement.

Dawn Mannay is a Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, UK, with an interest in class, inequalities and education. She edited the collection *Our Changing Land: Revisiting Gender, Class and Identity in Contemporary Wales* (University Wales Press, 2016) and authored *Visual, Narrative and Creative Research Methods: Application, Reflection and Ethics* (Routledge, 2016). Her most recent edited book with Dr Tracey Loughran is titled *Emotion and the Researcher: Sites, Subjectivities and Relationships* (Emerald, 2018).

Janean Robinson is a Research Associate at Murdoch University, Australia. She was a Secondary School Teacher for 30 years with the Western Australian Education Department before completing her master's in Education on which her chapter is based. She continues to publish scholarly work that advocates for

the social justice of teachers and students within government schools including her PhD, *'Troubling' Behaviour Management: Listening to Student Voice* (2011), *'Sent Out' and Stepping Back In: Stories from Young People 'Placed at Risk'* (2016) co-authored with John Smyth and *Rethinking School-to-Work Transitions in Australia: Young People Have Something to Say* (Springer, 2018) co-authored with Barry Down and John Smyth.

Susie Scott is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Sussex, UK. She specialises in the microsociological perspectives of symbolic interactionism and dramaturgical theory, as applied to aspects of self-identity, social interaction and everyday life. Susie is the author of *Shyness and Society* (Palgrave, 2007), *Making Sense of Everyday Life* (Polity, 2009), *Total Institutions and Reinvented Identities* (Palgrave, 2011) and *Negotiating Identity* (Polity, 2015). She has also published articles on shyness, total institutions, mental disorder, performance art and swimming. Susie's current research creates and develops a new area, the 'sociology of nothing' (Routledge, 2019).

Robin James Smith is a Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University, UK, where he teaches sociology, ethnomethodology and qualitative methods. His research interests coalesce around a concern with mundane and professional interactions and practices in public space and, more recently, mountainous areas. He has published a number of articles from an ethnographic study of outreach work with rough sleepers, on qualitative research methodology and studies of membership categorisation practices. He is currently Editor of *Qualitative Research*.

Katy Vigers is an Associate Professor of Career and Higher Education at the International Centre for Guidance Studies, which is based in the University of Derby, UK. Prior to this, she was an Associate Professor of Professional and Higher Education at Staffordshire University, UK. She is an experienced social researcher, with an interest in educational inequalities and social justice, particularly in relation to the context of higher education and graduate employment. She was an Elected Convenor of the British Educational Research Association's Social Justice special interest group between 2013 and 2016. She has carried out research projects funded by the Office for Students, the Sutton Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Department for Education, The Careers and Enterprise Company, the Gatsby Foundation, HEFCE, OFFA and the Society for Research into Higher Education.