79th International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia

Making anthropology relevant: Bridging theoretical anthropology and practical solutions

Chair Dr. Aivita Putniņa

4 March 2021

Session 1 10:00 – 12.25

Session 2 13.10 – 14:05

Workshop 14.20 – 15.20

Making anthropology relevant: Bridging theoretical anthropology and practical solutions

10:00 – 10:20
Projected lives – living in project-based trajectories
Aivita Putniņa
Zane Linde-Ozola

10:20 – 10.40
Between the self and theory: anthropological approaches to youth participation in NGO work
Artūrs Pokšāns

10:40 – 11:00
Challenges and limitations in applied anthropological research from the academic prospection
Olga Vorobyeva

11:00 – 11:15
Discussion

11:15-11:30
15 minute break

Making anthropology relevant: Bridging theoretical anthropology and practical solutions

11:30 – 11:50
Dilemmas and contributions of anthropologists working for aid and development agencies: the case of migration in Latin and Central America
Isabel González Enríquez

11:50 – 12:10
Discussing the limits and horizons of public anthropology through three examples from the Lampa festival
Kristians Zalāns

12:10 – 12:25
Discussion

12:25 – 13:10
45 minute break

Making anthropology relevant: Bridging theoretical anthropology and practical solutions

13:10 – 13:30
Expectations of sponsors and anthropological methodology: a case study of making the film Cats in Riga
Gareth E. Hamilton
Māra Neikena

13:30 – 13:50
From data to policy futures: the frictions of workshop design
Kārlis Lakševics

13:50 – 14:05
Discussion

14:05 – 14:20
15 minute break

14:20 – 15:20
Workshop with audience participation: Methodological misunderstandings between researcher and sponsor and the challenges of managing complicated relationships with clients
Zane Linde-Ozola
Māra Neikena

Making anthropology relevant: Bridging theoretical anthropology and practical solutions

14:20 – 15:20
Workshop with audience participation: Methodological misunderstandings between researcher and sponsor and the challenges of managing complicated relationships with clients
Zane Linde-Ozola
Māra Neikena

Nevardarbība

Stiprinot ģimenes, kopienas un attiecības: antropoloģiska pieeja vardarbības izpētē

Strengthening families, communities and relationships: anthropological perspectives on violence

ANTRO

antropologija.lu.lv

LATVIJAS UNIVERSITĀTE

FLPP

FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

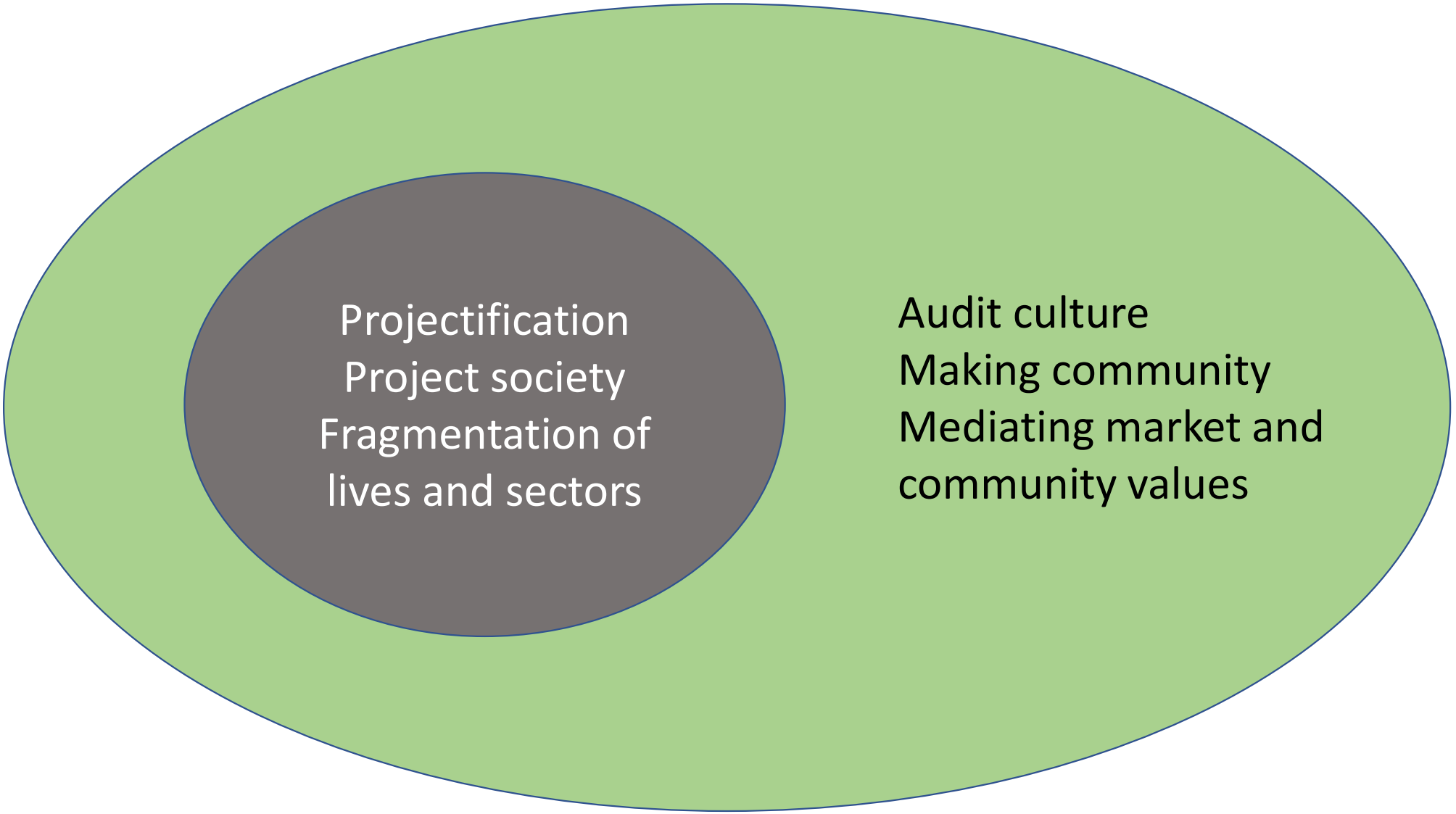
Projekta nr. lzp-2018/1-0068

Projected lives – living in project-based trajectories

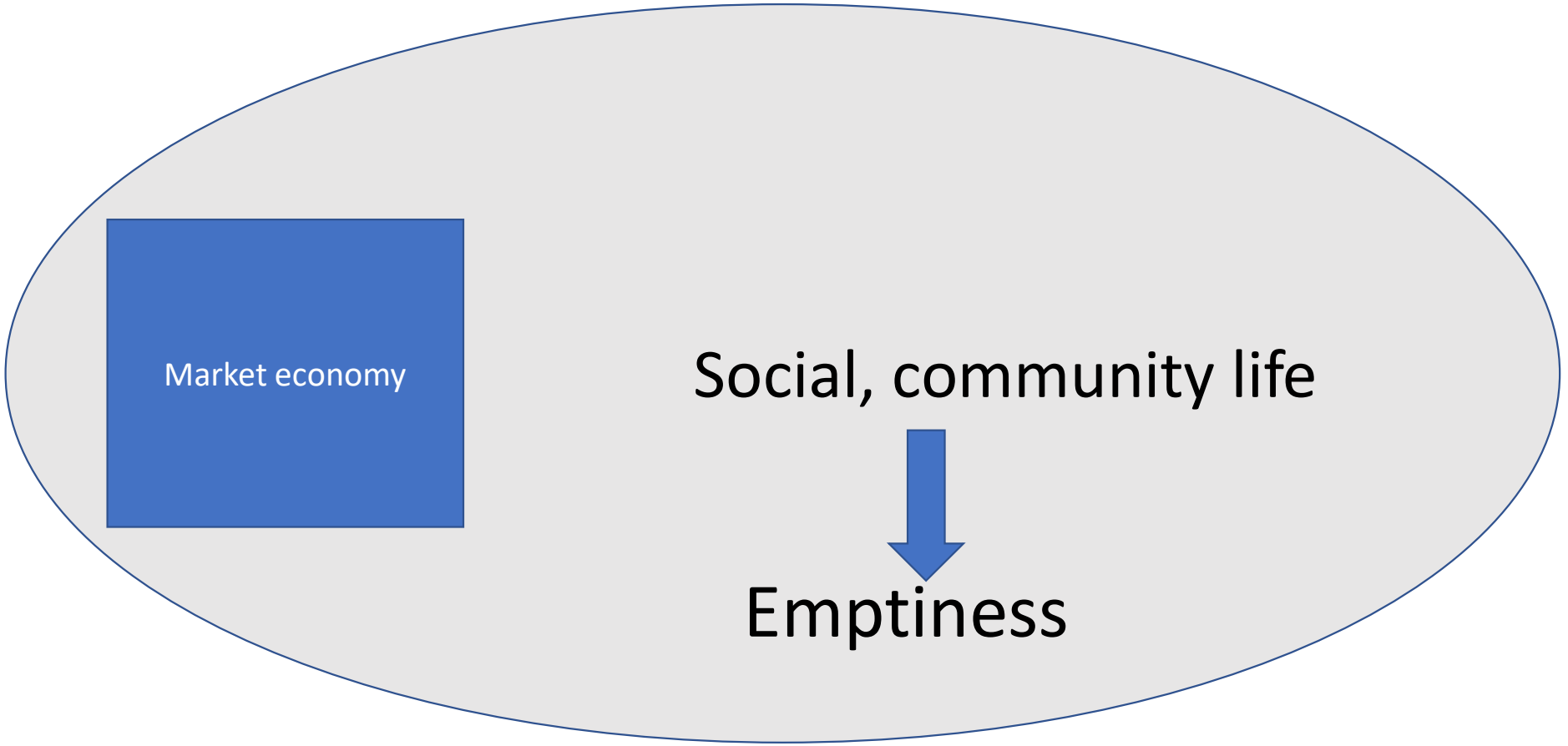
Aivita Putniņa

Zane Linde-Ozola

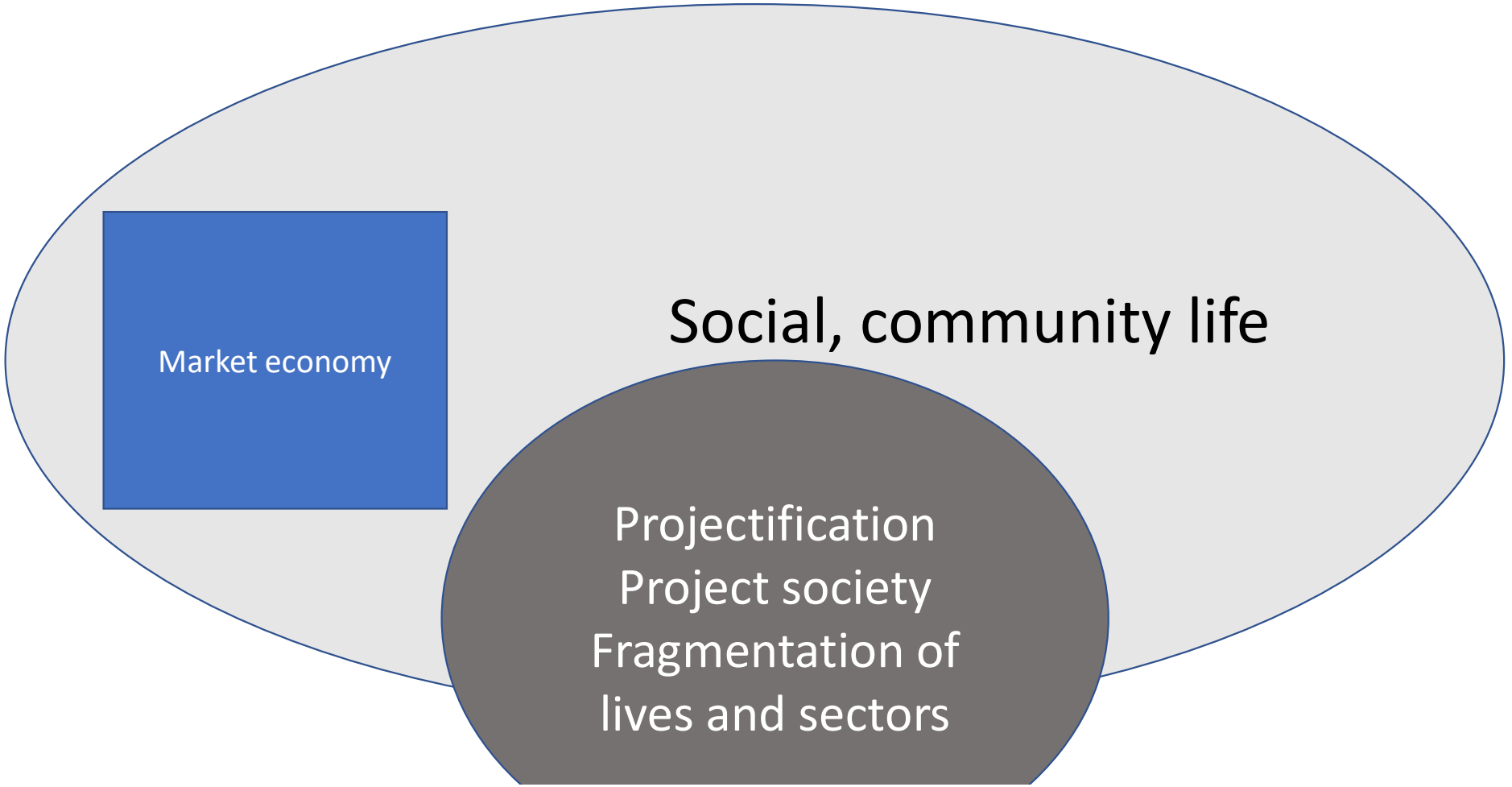
Projectification
Project society
Fragmentation of
lives and sectors


Projectification
Project society
Fragmentation of lives and sectors
Audit culture
Making community
Mediating market and community values

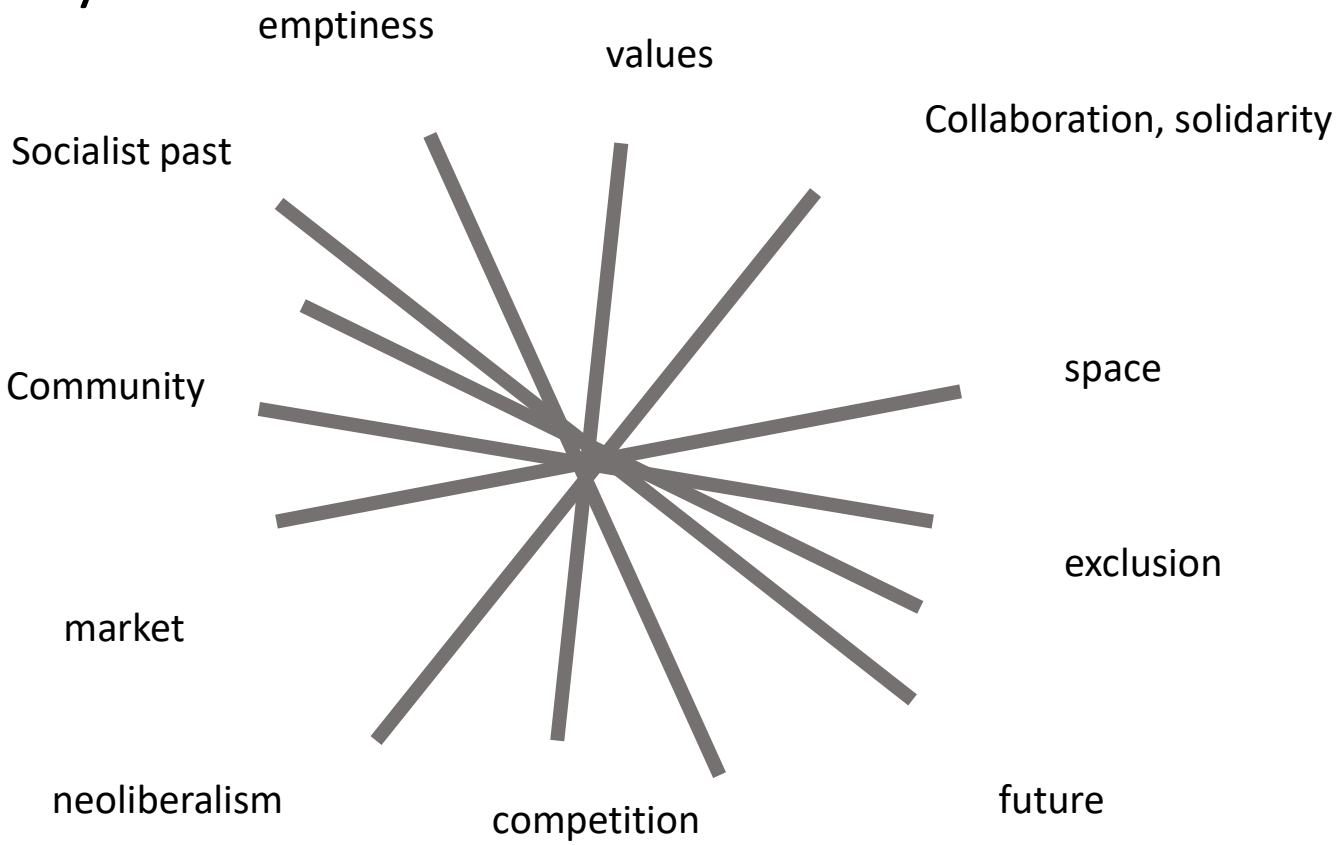
Postsocialist context



Postsocialist context



Argument: project as a point of connection and disconnection for imagining and performing community



Local SPA case

There is no public sauna. All money is allocated to culture matters. Everyone has left [the town], I have stayed here alone with my little wife, our children left after graduating high-school. We have become naked and poor. (local inhabitant)

Local SPA case

There is no public sauna. All the money is allocated to the culture. Everyone has left [the town], I have stayed here alone with my little wife, our children were gone after graduating high-school. We have become naked and poor. (local inhabitant)

Europe is giving money for large targets only. This is a very complicated work with planners, entrepreneurs, supervising institutions. When the state offers such a project activity, then we go for public sauna, but we do not have this opportunity now. (municipality representative)

7
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BakerTargets.com

A
SUSTAINABLE
WORLD IS OUR
GOAL

Greenisland

Projected space and time

- Fragmented development of the communal space and time:

We have submitted the first floor of our castle in a cross-border cooperation project. We did it in August but will have to wait quite long until we know it is approved and we can start implementing. We did submit the project X two years ago and only now we can start implementing something. D17

- Mismatch between project-based and community reality:

Q: What is this sound bench [you mention as a novelty]?

A: It is in the project framework. Came out as it came, more a design element. D139

Conversion between market and community values

X: There was this project and it is finished now. For five more years I should keep them [sheep] and get an increase. Five more years. And project [ends] only now. Otherwise, you have to pay the money back.

Q: So you kept the sheep because of the project?

X: Yes, yes. And made an increase. And thought what to do with them. They had become very unruly. D21

Projects simultanously mediate values of neoliberal market logic and those of the community:

- Individual project results are shared with a community (for example, free training courses, yoga, art-therapy, dance-therapy)
- Maintenance local 'agricultural spirit':
  - «Sheep projects»
  - Joint projects among neighbouring farmers
- Rural school projects preventing their closure

Conversion between market and community values

- A critical look: dissonance in values seen between community needs and market management system of the projects

These programmes. I do not how meaningful it is. Because sometime the society is tired that all the time we have this, that. All the time we are offered something. And certain underlaying values are lost. I dot know anymore what I need, what I should choose. Like in the shop – I look at shelves and do not understand – do I need it or not. D43

Projecting tensions in the community

- Inequalities embedded in the project managment

I came to the X fund before 8 am as I had to attend courses later. I came in with my papers and other women had come from distant locations as well, they all stood there. And there is this little student [diminutive, masculine form] sitting, drinking coffee, talking on the phone. Women standing up with their projects along the wall. Would he look into their cases or not? I would not be surprised if once someone came in with a Kalashnikov gun. This is a clear disrespect, they are sustained from our pocket. D13

- Projects as a site for local political fights

If we really dig deep, we can find a receipt, a small pretext. Well, they are smart people. But.. (..)they write complaints. This is terrible. What do they think? I do not know. Maybe they feel good when others feel bad.

Margins and gaps of the community

- Demonstrating margins and marginalising

B: We invited Roma children to participate in one project in parish X.

A: Also the [summer] camp took two [Roma] children.

B: They are completely ours, not the others anymore.

A: Yes, they are excepted normally from now on. (Youth centre specialists)

- Integrating but requiring cut-off members of community

We had a 20 year girl. She had education [level] of 7 grades. Found her in the rural area, social services did not know about her. She did not have a passport. Did not have a GP. We recovered her through the project a little. Through the project we taught her to wash clothes. Taught to wash hair. Included *her, enrolled her in school. D33*

To conclude

- Projects provide a new way of structuring social relations and realities around which people live their lives
- Projects not only inhabit the gaps between market and community but also embody those gaps
- Project-based logic shaped but also reflected the community
- Study of projects not only reveals how community engages with projects and what «runaway effects» and unintended consequences projects have but also show a broader processes of social change

Thank you!

Discussing limits and horizons of public anthropology through three examples from festival "Lampa"

Kristians Zalāns

04.03.2021.

LAMPA
lmt straume
nevienlīdzība piekļuvē resursiem
• Rūpēties par citiem ir pienākums.
• Neredzam, ka visi nevar rūpēties.
• Kad ir resursi, vari kļūt par "labo pilsoni".
4

lmt straume
A. RINKEVICS
POLICIJ

lmt straume
izskaust

lmt straume
RADIO TEV

“Can you report how many views did we have?”

An NGO representative
after a public discussion

1 Why public discussions?

2 What can be concluded?

3 How to move forward?

1 How have anthropologists come to organise discussions at LAMPA?

~100 years ago

anthropologists

sociologists

In recent decades

(..) more and more Western anthropologists are doing work in their own societies, thereby collectively transforming the discipline through their practice.
(Lamphere, 2004).

From ‘do no harm’ as the main guiding principle
of ethics in anthropology **to** ‘ethic of action’
or **bringing about social change**
that is best according to research done

(Rylko-Bauer, Singer & Van Willigen, 2006; cf. also Johnston, 2010 and Borofsky, 2011)

What is public anthropology?

(..) Illuminating **larger social issues** of our times as well as **encouraging broad, public conversations** about them with the explicit goal of **fostering social change**" (Borofsky, 2004).

Why we organised these discussions?

+ to change how we are/not discussing the issue

+ to support research based decision making

+ to train future anthropologists

2 What are my take-aways from organising these discussions?

Illuminating larger social issues

To what degree our medical system is geared towards taking patient needs and perspective into account?

2018

Illuminating larger social issues

How do young people experience and think about cyberbullying and how is this connected to how we as society deal with such issues?

2019

Illuminating larger social issues

How the Covid-19 crisis illuminates our understanding of care in families and care related inequalities?

2020

Encouraging broad, public conversations

- Public discussions of specialists
- Interactive / question capacity
- 2/3 broadcasted
- Training students in applied skills

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?

Fostering social change

Gathering different sides

Quantitative indicators

Success = revealing complexities?

Involving key stakeholders

3 Ideas on bringing about research based social change

LAMPA

- Deciding on indicators a routine step
- Evaluating success and shortcomings
- Change of format
- Pre and post discussion activities

LAMPA

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A greater anthropological shift

- Communicate our capacity to facilitate change
- Teach how to share research findings
- Research findings only 1/3 of our focus

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A greater anthropological shift

- Communicate our capacity to facilitate change
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- Research findings only 1/3 of our focus

Thank you!

From data to policy futures: the frictions of workshop design

Kārlis Lakševics

04-03-2021

lzp-2018/1-0068

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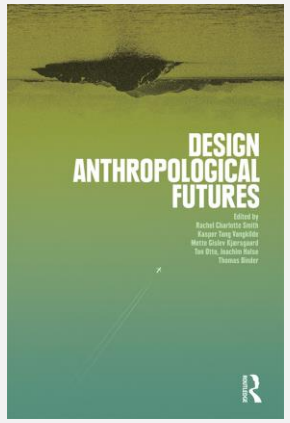
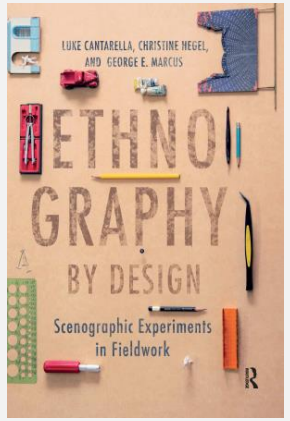
FUNDAMENTĀLIE UN LIETIŠĶIE PĒTĪJUMU PROJEKTI



Ethnographies of the possible

(Kjærsgaard, Halse, Smith, Vangkilde, Binder, Otto 2016)



Productive encounters

(Cantarella, Hegel, Marcus 2019)

Where two projects meet: violence prevention workshops

Co-organizers

Ministry
Anthropologists

Participants

Social workers
Medical workers

Regional cultural centres

Icons by **geotahah** and **Freepik**

Where are the frictions?

"**Friction**":
the awkward,
unequal, unstable,
and creative qualities
of interconnection
across difference.

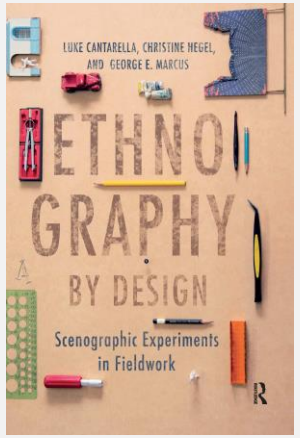
Tsing, 2005: 4

1 Scenography

2 Participation

3 Intervention

I Scenography



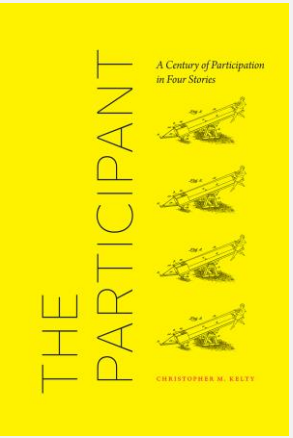
Alternative frame

Early violence prevention

The problem-solving script

Problem-framing > Problem-solving

2 Participation



Producing the participant

«Social work service. Social worker for families with children.»

Producing the collective

«We all here work with consequences!»

3 Intervention

Ethnographically informed provocations

«But can you give that risk paper? What should I do then?»

Performing appliedness

«Thank you for all the work we've done!»

Politics of the real

Politics of the possible

Invitations for further thinking

1 What publics are produced by our research and interventions?

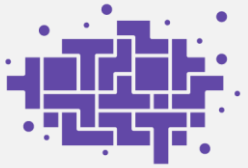
2 What are the affective and performative dimensions of our planned appliedness?

3 How do we expand our imagination for ‘the possible’?

UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA

Thank you!

karlis.laksevics@lu.lv



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LIETIŠĶIE PĒTĪJUMU
PROJEKTI

Expectations of sponsors and anthropological methodology: a case study of making the film Cats in Riga

the case of a European Capital of Culture-funded film

Gareth Hamilton &
Māra Neikena
Dept of Anthropology,
University of Latvia

ANTRO

UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

Latvijas Zinātnes padome

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FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

lzp-2018/1-0068

RĪGA 2014

EIROPAS KULTŪRAS GALVASPILSĒTA
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Association of Social Anthropologists Ethical Guidelines (4 out of 5 main points)

- Advance consent
- Relations with and responsibilities towards research participants
- Relations with and responsibilities towards sponsors, funders and employers
- Relations with, and responsibilities towards, colleagues and the discipline
- Responsibilities to the wider society

PROBLEMS

- Different understanding of research process
- Loss of control of the researcher’s identity
    - Credentials mention us as ‘researchers’, no control over the representation of the story, anthropologists as members of casting.

INITIAL TASK

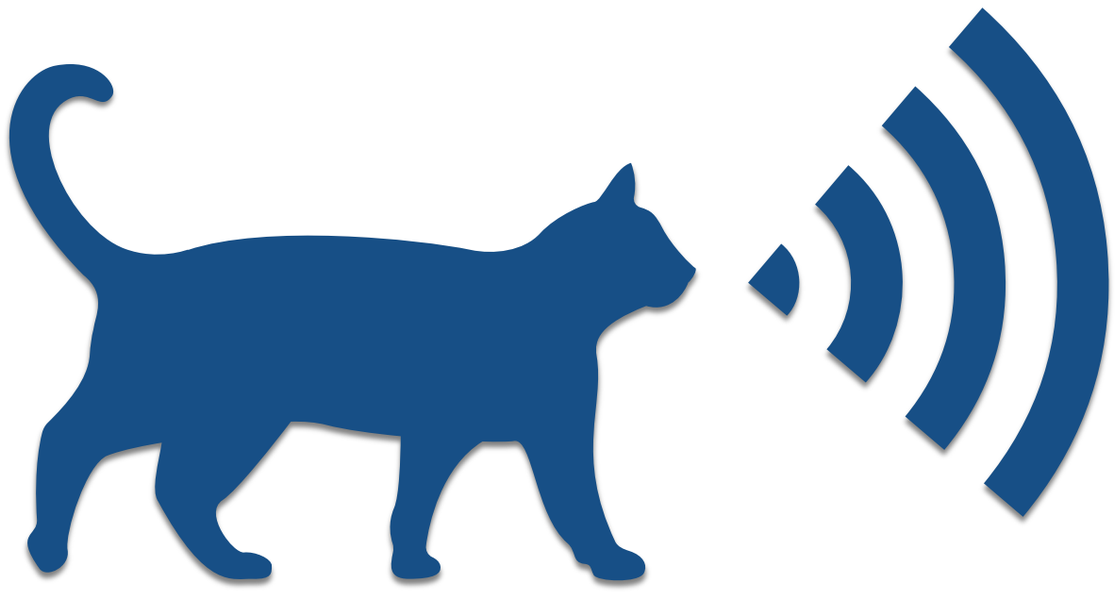
- To find ‘rich’ and ‘poor’ cats, three possible scenarious
    - a lonely person with a cat
    - a cat that is at the centre of attention in a wealthy family
    - a street cat

Biased, but there was space for interpretation and possibilities.

OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE RESEARCH FIELD

Cats and humans coexisting, cats sometimes being in command, e.g., “I am just a servant to them” (a 45 year old lawer)

Cats(’) as meaningful participants of the community.



Riga ‘catscapes’

GODS
KALPOT
RĪGAI
BUROVA
SARAKSTS
PĀRBAUDĪTS DARBĀ!

Uncis

http://statues.vanderkrogt.net

Nenyaki

from Riga
from Riga
SUVENĪRU KRŪZE
4,49
€ /gab
4,49 €/gab
11.07.2019 9:52:54
4 750818 001862
BALTIJAS SUVENĪRI SIA

4:11

Latvijas Avīze,
08.04.2019

ZĪMĒ ĒRIKS OŠS

Near Galerija
Centrs (Old Riga)

CAT
S.O.S

FAILS

Cats in Riga as seen by us

- in offices (a cat that sits in job interviews)
- education buildings (schoolchildren donating money to keep a blind cat in their school)
- hospitals (cardboard cat houses in many places in Riga including hospital territory)

Cats in Riga as seen by the sponsors

RICH ‘New Russians’, lavish spenders, people who ‘symbolize the future’. Layers, composers, artists ‘too clever’.

POOR ‘interesting’ people, alcoholics, prostitues, prisoners, ‘someone who does not see the market development’, ‘people in social prison’. ‘Interesting cats’ – smeared with oil in shipyards.

- Ready made assumptions about the research field.
- Lack of communication between the involved parties.
- Unclear expectations.
- We ‘fell out’ of the project.

RESULT OF THE PROJECT

- Stereotypical representation of Latvia as a post-soviet space, a political project.

Kaķi Rīgā (2014)

Kaķi Rīgā (2014)

Riga as violent

Discordant music played by cat

War in Ukraine

Dogs menacing

Mouse abuse

Riga as violent

Riga as violent

Riga as violent

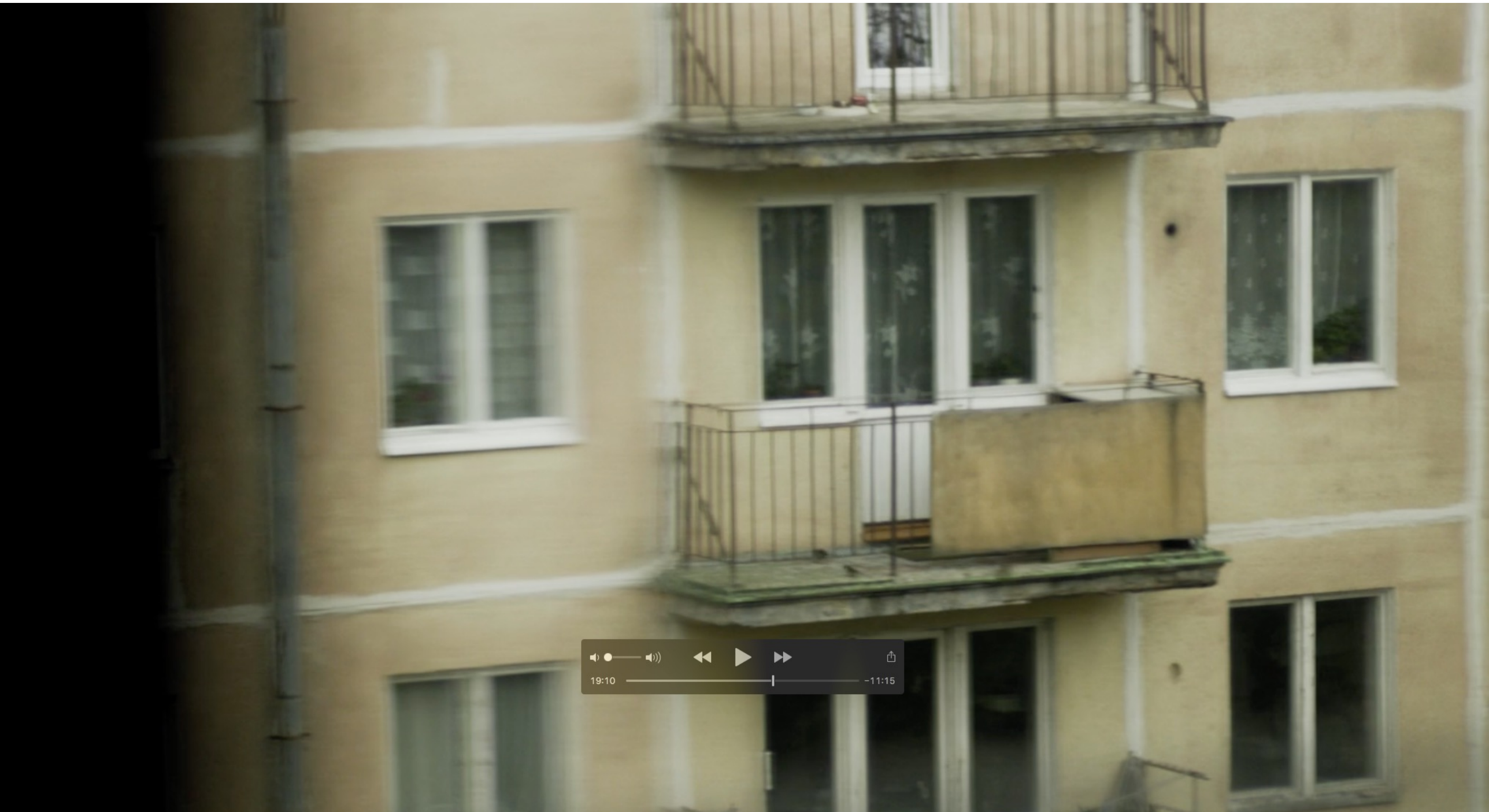
Riga as poor

Western gaze on Eastern poverty

Buildings

Old man in director’s cut (room and illness)

Riga as poor



Riga as poor

Riga as ‘Soviet’

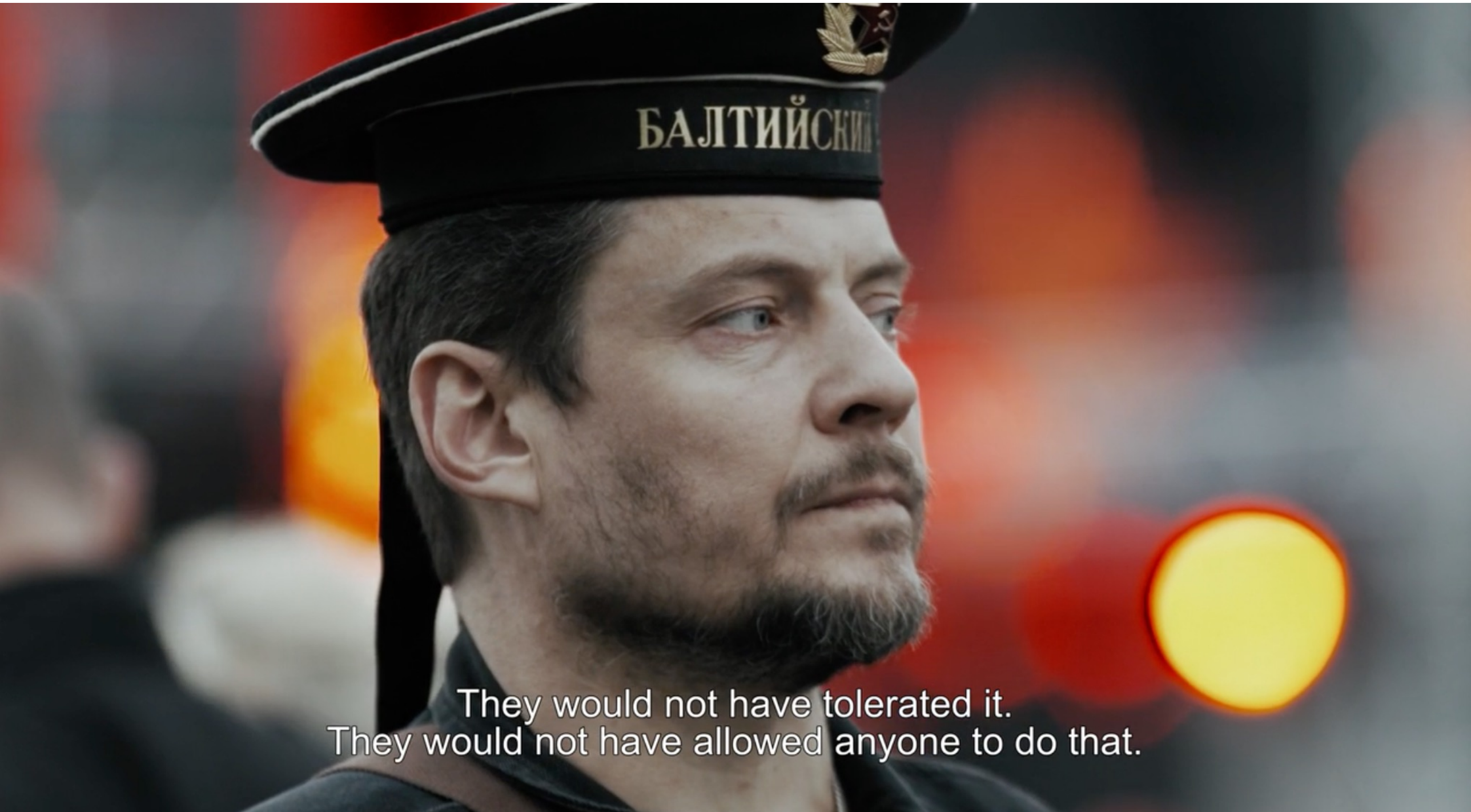
9 May

Russian ethnic population

Issues of violence again

Riga as ‘Soviet’

Riga as ‘Soviet’



ASA ETHICAL GUIDELINES

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE WIDER SOCIETY

RELATIONS WITH, AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS, COLLEAUGES AND THE DISCIPLINE

(UN)REALITIES

- A cat visiting the 9th of May celebration
- A cat living on the top of the TV tower
- Cats watching Euronews

- Marketed as an interdisciplinary project ‘in close cooperation with social anthropologists’

- Media coverage ‘documentary style with a meaningful contribution from anthropologists’

ASA ETHICAL GUIDELINES

ADVANCE CONSENT

RELATIONS WITH AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

- Pilot videos (director ‘forgot’ he has a camera on)
- Request to give away the contacts
- Lack of protective environment for research participants

Aculiecinieks: Uzvaras parkā rīdzinieki bauda tēju, staidzina kaķi un piketē pret Nilu (7)

Follow @delfilv 37.7K followers

Grigorijs Fedjkins (Grigorij.lv)

DELFI Aculiecinieks | 09. maijs 2014 14:19

Visiem jau labi zināms, ka Rīgā 9.maijā Uzvaras parkā plkst.10.00 dažādu valstu vēstnieki nolika ziedus, vainagus pie pieminekļa atbrīvotājiem, godinot tos, kuri gājuši bojā šai briesmīgajā karā.

Uzreiz pēc tam sākās svētku koncerts, kurš noslēgsies tikai vēlu vakarā.

Pie tam daži iedzīvotāji uz parku atnākuši, lai veiktu tējas ceremoniju, izstaidzinātu kaķi, un pastāvētu ar pret Ušakovu vērstu plakātu. Neticat? Paskatieties paši.

Zigfrīds Berezovskis
10.05.2014 10:44
Kaķis visā šajā epizodē pats labākais!
Skatīties visus autora komentārus
0 | 0 Citēt un atbildēt Ziņo redaktoram!

Ko?
09.05.2014 18:11
Staidzina kaķi.
Atgādina vienu čangaļu darbības vārdu - studzina.
4 | 0 Citēt un atbildēt Ziņo redaktoram!

Trieka
10.05.2014 09:32
Ušakova kungs, tauta pieprasa Jūsu personīgos komentārus par Jūsu elektorāta uzvedību.
Tāpat mani interesē mūsu valsts prezidenta viedoklis un atbilde uz manu jautājumu: kāpēc man vakar savā valstī un pilsētā bija jājūtas kā ciemiņam svešā valstī jeb tas ir o.k.
Šis video tikai kārtējo reizi apliecina, ka mūsu dienesti jau sen ir nogulējuši intergrācijas un piespiedu asimilācijas procesus. Vistrakākais, ka tie ir jauni cilvēki, kuriem visa dzīve vēl priekšā, bet viņi jau tagad ar naidu izturas pret valsti, kurā ir piedzimuši...
1 | 0 Citēt un atbildēt Ziņo redaktoram!

Shausmas....
12.05.2014 01:07
Kauns par savu valsti,tapec jau turisti visi runaa,ka Latvija ir Krievija.....ja pat nemak runat valsts valodu,dzivojot Latvijaa,kauns par to cilveku ar plakatu....
0 | 0 Citēt un atbildēt Ziņo redaktoram!

Aculieciniece
14.05.2014 11:15
Ko tik latvieši neizdomā - pati redzēju, ka kaķi atveda līdzi šī filmēšanas grupa, kopā ar sievieti, kura to staidzina. Vot priekš kam viņiem bija vajadzīga tāda stulba provokācija?
0 | 0 Citēt un atbildēt Ziņo redaktoram!

ASA ETHICAL GUIDELINES

RELATIONS WITH AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS SPONSORS, FUNDERS AND EMPLOYERS

Social pressure

Resistance ridiculed

ASA ETHICAL GUIDELINES

- The research space should be negotiated, antrhopologists ‘are entitled to expect from a sponsor, funder or employer a respect for their professional expertise and for the integrity of the data whether or not these obligations are incorporated in formal contracts’.

CONCLUSIONS

- Mutual negotiation of the research space, researchers position

- Importance of institutional support (movie director prioritized by the company)

- Challenges to cooperate can vary (other projects where our colleagues were included went well)

ANTRO

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UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

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Latvijas Zinātnes padome

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FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

lzp-2018/1-0068

Methodological misunderstandings between researcher and sponsor and the challenges of managing complicated relationships with clients

Māra Neikena

Zane Linde-Ozola

Outline

1. Introduction: some key principles and issues of applied/practical anthropology
2. Practical part: what would you do in these situations?
3. Managing applied research
4. Questions and discussion

1. Introduction: some key principles and issues of applied/practical anthropology

Applied/practical anthropology and discipline's history

- Identity of anthropologists
    - Serving colonial authorities – practical/ applied
    - Trying to give voice to more vulnerable groups
- Evans-Pritchard (1946)
    - academic, not practical priorities should determine anthropology's agenda
- Miller (1995)
    - consumption is the contemporary means by which people almost universally express their cultural identities and relate to one another.

I.Viņķele: [..] uzvedības ekonomikas vai tās bikstīšanas pieejas ir lietotas arī veselībā un, starp citu, vakcinācija ir viena no tām jomām, kur tas ir diezgan ar praksi, mēs vienkārši izpētām to pieredzi, kas ir labās citu valstu prakses. Ne Covid vakcīnām, bet citām vakcīnām, kā pieaudzēt vakcinēšanas aptveri. Šeit mēs aicinām talkā antropologus, cilvēku dvēseļu inženierus, lai uzdizainētu tos aicinājumus, pakalpojumus ar 'opt in, opt out' dizaina pieeju, kur ir noklusējumā vieglāk ir vakcinēties, nekā nevakcinēties.

TRANSLATION: … how to increase vaccination coverage. Here we invite anthropologists, engineers of human souls …

Transcript of government meeting 01.12.2020.

Double roles

- Profit or politics driven (NVO, state agencies) organizations
  - Different principles, even value systems
  - Who ‘owns’ the research findings
  - Known or unknown agendas of organizations

  - Geertz (2000) ‘Double citizenships’ and ‘double obligations’.

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

- Navigating between communities with different sets of values, ethics, identities not unfamiliar to anthropologists
- Can be unexpected if in one's own culture

ETHICAL CODES

- Offer guidance, but not always answers

Academia, anthropology and commerce

- Maintaining critical distance, part of the academic identity.
- Culture, cultural heritage, knowledge as a potential resource for profit can be complex (exploitation of knowledge has made some communities wary of researchers).
- ‘Doing good’ and ‘doing business’ (fear to further people’s oppression)
- Grass-roots position vs expert’s position

2. Practical part: what would you do in these situations?

Instruction

Please go to www.menti.com and insert code: 62 36 29 4

You can use you phones as well!

3. Managing applied research

HOW TO AVOID THESE AND SIMILAR SITUATIONS?

- ✓ Contemplate and be mindful of what ethical/methodological/other lines you are not ready to cross and how to avoid them

CONTINGENCY PLAN

- ✓ Include disclaimer in the publication
- ✓ For example, «the contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of xx and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of xx»

DISCLAIMER

- ✓ Set important research/methodological/ethical principles in contract

CONTRACT

- ✓ Information sheet for research participants and informed consent form set standard for managing the personal and research data
- ✓ GDPR requirements!

ETHICS REVIEW

Why should anthropologists continue to do applied research?

- Movement between different fields is a part of anthropological experience (Van Maanen 1988)
- Movement creates awareness of difference, that leads to knowledge (Bateson 1972)
- The pure and applied research distinction distorts anthropology's dynamism
- Many successful projects especially in relation to livelihood strategies, resource management, local health issues, political violence, grass-roots movements, human rights issues.

SOURCES

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4. Questions and discussion