

NALACS Master Class: Intimacies and Ethnographic Research in Latin America

Facilitator: Dr. Lorraine Nencel (VU University Amsterdam)

Date: Wednesday November 25, 2009

Time: 14-17 hrs

Place: CEDLA, Keizersgracht 395-397, Amsterdam

This Master class is aimed at bringing researchers, particularly PhDs but not exclusively, together who are doing ethnographic research in Latin America and are interested in the topic of intimacies. We will discuss the way intimacies can be central within both the field and the focus of research. Ethnography is created through intimate knowledge, and the process of doing ethnographic research has traditionally relied on relations of trust. What methodological challenges and ethical dilemmas do our access to and reliance on spheres of intimacy pose? Are there particular methods that facilitate or create obstacles in research on intimate relations? How do we represent our own relations of intimacy during fieldwork (with research assistants, friends and sexual partners)? After a short introduction, a hands-on approach will be used to discuss the participants' work in progress. The discussion will criss-cross through subjects of methods, ethics and fieldwork and writing up.

The masterclass will be followed by a networking dinner sponsored by NALACS.

Lorraine Nencel is associate professor at the department of Social Research Methodology at VU University Amsterdam, where she teaches qualitative research methodology and ethnography. She has done research on sex work in Lima, Peru. (*Ethnography and Prostitution in Peru*, London: Pluto Press, 2001), on sexuality and gender identities of secretaries working in Public Administration in Lima, and is now conducting research in the Netherlands entitled: *Young people, sexuality and adult society*.