



UNDERSTANDING ETHNOGRAPHY

PROF.NINA SABNANI

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IIT Bombay

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Open to All

COURSE OUTLINE :

The purpose of this course is to introduce learners from different disciplines and backgrounds to the fundamental concepts, process and practice of ethnography. The course will offer an introduction to various tools and methods that form ethnographic practice. This is underpinned by an introduction to the concepts, theories and debates that form the theoretical basis of ethnographic research.

While the course will be structured in the forms of video lectures, readings and exercises, we hope to design each of these to give the learner as much practice based learning as possible. This also makes the course relevant to practitioners.

In this way, we hope, the course will aid the learner in honing their existing knowledge of the subject with a view to improve their practice and application of it. Alternately, it will offer an opportunity for new learners to enter into practice supported by an expansive understanding of the subject.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Nina Sabnani is an artist and storyteller who uses film, illustration and writing to tell her stories. Graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Vadodara she received a master's degree in film from Syracuse University, NY, as a Fulbright Fellow. Her doctoral research at IIT Bombay, focused on the Kaavad storytelling tradition of Rajasthan. Her work in film and illustrated books, seeks to bring together animation and ethnography. Her award-winning films have been made into illustrated books and translated in many Indian languages. Her passion to explore participatory design has led her to make Hum Chitra Banate Hain (We make Images) with Sher Singh Bhil from Madhya Pradesh won the prestigious National award from the President of India for 2016. Nina is currently involved in creating online courses.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction to Ethnography

Week 2: Unpacking Ethnography

Week 3: Designing an Ethnographic Research

Week 4: Access and Immersion

Week 5: Observation and Participation

Week 6: Ethnographic Interviews: Listening and Speaking

Week 7: Visual Ethnography

Week 8: Using an Ethnographic Approach: Case Studies