

Ethnography in a virtual mobility context : the use of clinical interviews to avoid bias

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What is Virtual Mobility?

“The use of ICT to obtain the same benefits as one would have with physical mobility but without the need to travel.” (Gea, Montes, 2011)


“e-learning and distance education do not necessarily imply internationalization of learning/knowledge, intercultural dialogue and cross-border academic cooperation, which are, in turn, the major Virtual Mobility drivers” (Dondi, Saladin, 2010)

About cosmopolitan open-mindedness



“is *cosmopolitan open-minded* anyone who wants to be open to others, who says he/she could get in touch with other ways of life, who eventually wish to life aboard” (Cicchelli, 2012)

If cosmopolitan open-mindedness is developed through physical mobility, could it be enhanced through Virtual Mobility too ?

 Here is my question

Choose your field ...



Clinical interviews

“Clinical approach aims to understand the deep sense of situations and events for singular individuals. A research is clinical when it focuses on what is experienced, what is felt from subjective points of view, rather than on external facts.” (Yelnik, 2005)

What about the project ?



Avoiding bias in research relationship

I did it for you ...
Hmm, I mean I did
it because it may
help you.

You better know
than me. You went
twice while I can't
afford ...

You'll probably be a
good wife, you love
children don't you ?

You have abandoned us for
300 years ... And then come
back, as we are yours.

Exploring researcher countertransference

A researcher's counter-transference can be defined as the sum of unconscious and emotional reactions, including anxiety, affecting his/her relation with the observed subject and situation. These reactions produce distortions in the process of knowledge construction.



Devereux (1967)

As ethnographers become more reflexive concerning their position and their workfield, countertransference remains quite unknown and unstudied ...