

September 21th-22th, 2017, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

3° Biennial Symposium “Anthropological Talks in South Tyrol”

The Malinowskian Legacy in Ethnography

Nearly a full century after the publication of *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, ethnographic fieldwork remains a staple of social and cultural anthropology, despite its retooling through an intense probing of its epistemological framework (for example: post-colonial thought, reflexivity, sensorial ethnography, multispecies ethnography) and sundry adaptations to keep it in step with complex contemporary society (to name just a few: ethnography at home, multisited ethnography, internet ethnography, ethnography of policy). Above and beyond, this, however, we may ask what it means to be an ethnographer in the brave new world of audit-centered, academic turbo capitalism. Are third-party funding and evaluation processes dictating the contents and contours of ethnographic research to an excessive degree? To what extent is it still possible to conduct deep and long-term fieldwork, à la Malinowski, with all of its implications for creating relations with research participants? The use of ethnography has proliferated and become exceedingly fashionable in a number of disciplines outside of anthropology: but is the work being done still recognizable to anthropologists as ethnography? That is, is ethnography a victim of its own success, in that the substance of Malinowskian ethnography is being hollowed out? What, then, remains the sine qua non of ethnography in the Malinowskian legacy?

Speakers:

Prof. Andre Gingrich, Universität Wien

Dr. Chandana Mathur, National University of Ireland Maynooth

Prof. Josephus Platenkamp, Universität Münster

Dr. Valeria Siniscalchi, Centre Norbert Elias

Dr. Jaru Stacul, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Prof. Marylin Strathern, University of Cambridge

Organizers:

Dr. Elisabeth Tauber, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Prof. Dorothy Zinn, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano