
RP-PCP training session



Methods in Social Sciences: Anthropological and Ethnobiological approaches to study Human/Plant and Human/Animal Interactions

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Seminar-Lectures & Workshop

Harare, May 2nd – May 6th 2016

Background: The Research Platform Production and Conservation in Partnership (www.rp-pcp.org) promotes applied research and post-graduate training on “wild-domestic interfaces” in Southern Africa. As part of the activities of the RP-PCP/Natural Resources Governance and Institutions theme, a series of seminars and training sessions in Social Sciences have been organised since 2014, and this follows up on the session held in May 2015 at UZ, Harare

Objectives:

- 1) Introduction to data collection and data analysis methods used in anthropology and ethnobiology
- 2) Presentation of data processing and analysis software
- 3) Workshop dedicated to helping students in the design of their research protocols and in the analysis of their collected data

Target group: All RP-PCP post-graduate students, senior academics and researchers interested in multidisciplinary approaches. Note: this session is open to all students attached to RP-PCP projects (RenCaRe, SAVARID, DREAM, PIAF, GeoSaf, Hwange-ZA...) but the group may comprise a maximum of 15 persons. Confirmation of attendance to shirleytachi@gmail.com and yumvuri@gmail.com is essential before 20th April 2016

Proposed dates: 02 May 2016 – 06 May 2016 (08:30 – 17:30)

Proposed venue: TREP seminar room, Dept Biol. Sc., University of Zimbabwe, Mt Pleasant, Harare

See detailed programme, course resources and suggested reading in the following pages

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Collecting data in the field: Ethnographic approaches	Collecting data in the field: Ethnographic, Ethno- veterinarian & participatory approaches	Ethnobiology and Cultural Domain Analysis 1	Ethnobiology and Cultural Domain Analysis 2	Hands-On Workshop. Working on students' data
08:30- 10:15	Introduction Anthropology and the social sciences <i>Lecture- J. Wencélius</i>	Documenting what people do <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Key Concepts and Methods in Ethnobiology <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Measuring the use-value of natural resources <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Hands-on Workshop
10:15- 10:45					
10:45- 12:45	Ethnographic fieldwork <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Participatory Rural Appraisal <i>Lecture - Dr. Lerato Nare</i>	Principles of classification of living kinds <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Measuring and comparing knowledge across informants <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Hands-on Workshop
13:00- 14:00					
14:00- 15:45	Interviewing techniques <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Ethno-veterinarian studies: Key concepts and methods <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Free-Listing - Collection Methods and Analysis <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Social Network Analysis (SNA) <i>Lecture - J. Wencélius</i>	Hands-on Workshop
15:45- 16:00					
16:00- 17:30	Qualitative Data Analysis - RQDA <i>Workshop - J. Wencélius</i>	Making sense of the diversity of data <i>Case study - J. Wencélius</i>	Using FLAME and FLARES <i>Workshop - J. Wencélius</i>	Consensus Analysis & SNA under R <i>Workshop - J. Wencélius</i>	Hands-on Workshop

Course resources and documents are available in the following Dropbox folder:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/41c2vrba01ps933/AACFJFW86FB0ub8bB_B_fpska?dl=0

Day 1 – Collecting data in the field: Ethnographic approaches

1.1 Anthropology and the social sciences – J. Wencélius

Introduction to Anthropology and the Social Sciences. In this lecture we will focus on a brief historical overview of the anthropological discipline and present its main concepts and objectives: universalism vs. relativism; emic vs. etic; inductive vs. deductive...

Suggested readings:

- Evans-Pritchard E. E. (1937). *Witchcraft, oracles and magic among the Azande – Chapter II*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Harris M. (1976). “History and Significance of the Emic/Etic Distinction”. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 5: 329–350.

1.2 Ethnographic fieldwork – J. Wencélius

Presentation of the key concepts and techniques of ethnographic fieldwork. Discussion will cover topics ranging from preparation for fieldwork, getting comfortable in the field, confronting initial hypotheses to field reality and ethics.

Suggested readings:

1.3 Interviewing techniques – J. Wencélius

In this lecture will be covered in detail the most common interviewing techniques of ethnographic fieldwork: structured & semi-structured interviews; life-histories; unstructured interviews; informal discussions & participant observation; and focus groups.

Suggested readings:

- Bernard, H. R. (2006). *Research methods in anthropology : qualitative and quantitative approaches (4th Edition ed.) – Chapters 9, 13 & 15*. Lanham: AltaMira Press.

1.4 Recording, indexing and analysing qualitative data – Introduction to RODA – J. Wencélius

Workshop on the use of an R package and Graphic User Interface that can be used to record, index and analyse field notes and qualitative data. (Interesting alternative to the very expensive nVivo).

Software installation:

<http://rqda.r-forge.r-project.org/>

Day 2 – Collecting data in the field: Ethnographic, Ethno-veterinarian & participatory approaches

2.1 Documenting what people do: Labour schedules & trail walks – J. Wencélius

After presenting interviewing techniques (Day 1) which are oriented to documenting what people say and say they do, this lecture will be dedicated to presenting techniques to document what people actually do. Of specific interest will be techniques useful for documenting how people make use of their time and of space.

Suggested readings:

- Stone G. D., Netting R. M. & Stone M. P. (1990). “Seasonality, Labor Scheduling, and Agricultural Intensification in the Nigerian Savanna”. *American Anthropologist*, 92(1), 7-23.

- Hewlett B. S., Lamb M. E., Leyendecker B., Scholmerich A. (2000). « Parental investment strategies among Aka foragers, Ngandu farmers and Euro-American urban industrialists. » *In: L. Cronk, N. Chagnon & W. Irons (Eds.) Adaptation and Human Behavior : an anthropological perspective*, pp. 155-177

2.2 Participatory Rural Appraisal – Dr. Lerato Nare

Description to be added

Suggested readings:

To be added soon.

2.3 Ethno-veterinarian studies: Key concepts and methods

Overview of literature dedicated to the study of local knowledge of animal diseases.

Description and discussion of some of the most common issues and methods.

Suggested readings:

To be added soon

2.4 Making sense of the diversity of data – An example from Cameroon – J. Wencélius

Presentation of a case study of my fieldwork in order to present how to make sense of the great diversity of data collected while carrying out ethnographic fieldwork. This session will provide the opportunity to recapitulate the different methods presented during Day 1 and Day 2.

Day 3 – Introduction to Ethnobiology and Cultural Domain Analysis 1

3.1 Ethnobiology: key concepts and methods – J. Wencélius

In this lecture will be presented the key concepts and methods from Ethnobiology. The lecture will be based on the presentation of key studies in the field in order to present a panorama of the diversity of topics addressed in the discipline and of methods used to document them.

Suggested readings:

- Clément D. (1998). “L’ethnobiologie / Ethnobiology.” *Anthropologica*, 40(1), 7-34.
- Hunn E. S. (2007). “Ethnobiology in Four Phases.” *Journal of ethnobiology*, 27(1), 1-10.
- Sutton, M. Q., & Anderson, E. N. J. (2010). *Introduction to Cultural Ecology* (2 ed.) – Chapter on Pastoralism. Lanham: Altamira Press.

3.2 Principles of classification of living kinds – J. Wencélius

In this lecture we will present the different ethnobiological approaches to documenting the ways in which humans classify living entities of their environment. Methods in order to uncover patterns of classification will be presented such as pile-sorting and a case-study from my own work presented.

Suggested readings:

- Hunn E. S. (1982). “The Utilitarian Factor in Folk Biological Classification”. *American Anthropologist*, 84(4), 830-847.
- Atran S. (1985). “The Nature of Folk-Botanical Life Forms”. *American Anthropologist*, 87(2), 298-315.

3.3 Free-Listing: Collection Methods and Analysis – J. Wencélius

Presentation of the free-listing technique, its history, objectives and methods of analysis. We will focus on how free-listing enables researchers to: i) make an inventory of items

belonging to a semantic domain; ii) uncovering the structure of the domain and the relative (cognitive/cultural) importance of different items in a given culture; iii) unveiling patterns of classification in the domain and; iv) documenting inter-individual differences in pattern of responses.

Suggested readings:

- Borgatti S. P. (1999). "Elicitation techniques for cultural domain analysis". In J. Schensul & M. LeCompte (Eds.), *The Ethnographer's Toolkit*, Vol. 3 (pp. 1-26). Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press.
- Gravlee C. C. The uses and limitations of free-listing in ethnographic research. Retrieved 07/04/2008, from <http://gravlee.org/ang6930/freelists.htm>
- Winkler-Rhoades N., Medin D. L., Waxman S. R., Woodring J., & Ross N. O. (2010). "Naming the animals that come to mind: Effects of culture and experience on category fluency." *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 10(1-2), 205-220.

3.4 Using FLAME and FLARES – J. Wencélius

Workshop dedicated to the presentation of FLAME (Free-List Analysis under Microsoft Excel) and its new version running under R. Data collected in Zimbabwe will be used to present the software's capabilities.

Suggested readings:

- Wencélius J., Pennec F., Garine E., Raimond C. and Bohbot H. (Draft). "FLAME: A new software for Free-List Analysis".

Day 4 – Ethnobiology and Cultural Domain Analysis 2

4.1 Measuring the use-value of natural resources – J. Wencélius

Free-listing is a method to uncover the relative cultural/cognitive importance of items within a domain but such an importance may not be directly related to the actual material importance in every-day life of the items. In this lecture we will present methods used in ethnobiology to measure the relative use-importance of different natural resources.

Examples will be drawn from literature and case studies from Cameroon.

Suggested readings:

- Turner N. J. (1988). "The Importance of a Rose: Evaluating the Cultural Significance of Plants in Thompson and Lillooet Interior Salish". *American Anthropologist*, 90(2), 272-290.
- Garibay-Orijel R., Caballero J., Estrada-Torres A., & Cifuentes J. (2007). "Understanding cultural significance, the edible mushrooms case." *Journal of ethnobiology and ethnomedicine*, 3.

4.2 Measuring and comparing knowledge across informants – J. Wencélius

How can knowledge be measured? How can informants be compared based on the knowledge they have of living kinds or natural resources? This lecture will present different methods from ethnobiology used for measuring and comparing knowledge across informants.

Suggested readings:

- Reyes-García V., Martí N., McDade T. W., Tanner S., & Vadez V. (2007). "Concepts and Methods in studies measuring individual ethnobotanical knowledge." *Journal of ethnobiology*, 27(2), 182-203.
- Weller S. C. (2007). "Cultural Consensus Theory: Applications and Frequently Asked Questions". *Field Methods*, 19(4), 339-368.

4.3 Social Network Analysis (SNA)

Presentation of data collection and data analysis methods in social network analysis and how they may be applied to ethnobiological/ethno-veterinarian studies or natural resource management.

Suggested readings:

- Calvet-Mir L., Calvet-Mir M., Molina J. L., & Reyes-García V. (2012). “Seed exchange as an agrobiodiversity conservation mechanism. A case study in Vall Fosca, Catalan Pyrenees, Iberian Peninsula”. *Ecology and Society*, 17(1), 29-39.

4.4 Consensus Analysis & SNA under R

Workshop on consensus analysis (comparing knowledge across informants) and the use of social network analysis packages under R.

Day 5 – Hands-On Workshop. Working on students’ data

The last day of the training will be dedicated to working with students on their data and needs. Issues related to preparing fieldwork, organising collected data or data analysis may be covered.

General Bibliography

- Anderson, E. N. J., Pearsall, D. M., Hunn, E. S., & Turner, N. J. (Eds.). (2011). *Ethnobiology*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Bernard, H. R. (2006). *Research methods in anthropology : qualitative and quantitative approaches (4th Edition ed.)*. Lanham: AltaMira Press.
- Sutton, M. Q., & Anderson, E. N. J. (2010). *Introduction to Cultural Ecology (2 ed.)*. Lanham: Altamira Press.
- Rapport, N., & Overing, J. (2000). *Social and Cultural Anthropology. Key Concepts*. London;New York: Routledge.
- Berlin, B. (1992). *Ethnobiological classification: principles of categorization of plants and animals in traditional societies*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.