GROUP CODING ACTIVITY: (see PowerPoint)

Small Group Coding Activity

1. Get in your small groups
2. Discuss the questions: What were common themes across the group members’ notes? Where there any notable differences?
3. Select 3-5 of themes that your group found most interesting (i.e. technology use, gendered interactions, sub-cultures, symbolic items, unwritten social norms, unwritten rule breaking, etc.)
4. Re-read all of your group’s notes, marking every instance of the selected themes
5. When everyone in your group is done, talk amongst yourself about any patterns or discernable trends within each theme.

POST ACTIVITY DISCUSSION:

Ethics Questions

* After having done this observational activity, what kind of ethical issues do you think anthropologists have to address?
  + Drawing on the SfAA Ethics statement, how do anthropologists navigate ethical quandaries in field work?
* Are there other ethical concerns that you imagine that anthropologists face? (Or maybe that Scheper-Hughes, Bourgois, Lee, or Geertz faced?)

Research Design and Developing Research Questions

* Anthropologists often use a period of fieldwork to help develop and refine their research plans. Once anthropologists have a better understanding of the social norms and cultural contexts of the places where they work, they are able to develop strong research questions. Take five minutes as a group to come up with a good research question based on your observations.

OBSERVATION ACTIVITY WRAP-UP

* Had anyone ever done an observational or participant observation activity prior to this? (show of hands)
* What were your general impressions of the activity?
* What was challenging about the activity?
* What can we learn from observation?
* What are limits of what we can learn by observation?
* What can we take from this experience to inform the way we continue to read, analyze, and discuss ethnographies?