

The Trajectory of Anthropological Fieldwork

Prep-Work:

- Pick an ethnic group and area
- Review the literature
- Take language classes, if possible
- Contact people who have also worked in the area, and begin to form scholarly networks
- Write a research proposal (submit it to obtain funds)
- Apply to host country government for an official research permit
- Get IRB approval
- Buy supplies
- Obtain all necessary immunizations and medications

Actual Fieldwork:

- Choose actual site
- Establish a base of operations
- Make courtesy visits to local government officials and notables
- Engage in participant observation: field-notes and diary
- Take census (??)
- Make maps (??)
- Conduct open-ended (non-directive) interviews
- Employ additional methods:
 - Conduct formal surveys and questionnaires (??)
 - Record folklore, songs, poetry, and other oral texts (??)
 - Chart kinship (??)
 - Make a visual record of the community: photos and videotapes (??)
 - Collect life histories (??)
 - Perform time-allocation study (??)