



ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDNOTES

Preparation & Instructions



Description

Ethnographic fieldnotes are a tool to organize different observations, types of analysis, emerging questions and reflections, as well as ideas for future action.

Ethnographic fieldnotes are a useful tool to make sense of complex interactions and processes taking place in response to challenges such as climate change. They are structured, written observations done in physical and social proximity to a community or to the daily lives of a particular city. They can reflect not only the context in which a problem is being addressed and observed but also the links to citizens views. They can be a critical means to understand one's positionality, as well as the routines, challenges and conditions in which communities face ecological and governance challenges.

How to conduct

Duration: 60-120 min, repeat various times if necessary

Material: Pen, eventually camera

Participants per team: Individually

Instructions:

1. Immerse yourself in a specific social context in order to understand it.
2. Fill the template with your observations based on your own reflections and positionality, emerging questions, and ideas for the future. The template is just meant to guide the personal impressions and reflections and can be used flexibly according to the specific situation.
3. The collected data can then be analysed further during group discussions and further activities like problem definitions to extract and prioritize issues to be tackled.



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Template

Observations

Problems

Ideas

Open Questions