



Ethnography and Experience
Call for Applications for Workshop



“Anthropology teaches us to seek out unseen faces of the world at hand, to confront its openness through experience and encounter, and to take these openings as seeds of a humanity to come.”

Anand Pandian

Experience could be dismissed as subjective, personal, and as something that – due to its ephemeral nature – should be let go of, rather than elaborated upon in scientific endeavour. However, a growing interest in phenomenological anthropology and the sensory turn emancipated the concept of (personal) experience, which has now become a fundamental concept in anthropological research and theory. As a counterpoint to the distancing visual and textual intellectualism of some anthropological approaches, embodiment and embodied experience have become key pillars for anthropological knowledge production, something that impacts our disciplinary awareness, redefining how we envision anthropology as a social science, how we treat such core concepts as culture and society, and how we carry out fieldwork. A shift from data to experience, from dichotomies to fluxes and flows, from a general present tense to concrete momentary happenings, from the culturally enclosed world of interlocutors to experiences shared with friends, are just a few examples of how such a turn might impact research and modes of knowledge production in our discipline.

The present call is an invitation to engage with these broadly defined and potentially dispersive approaches. We propose to think together within the wider framework of phenomenological anthropology, where we will be lead by scholars, whose work is grounded in and contributes to this framework. We invite applications from PhD students and early career researchers with a background and/or trajectory in anthropology, whose interests align or tap into this broad horizon. The workshop will be held in Stana, near Cluj-Napoca, Romania, between August 29th – September 1st, 2024.

We welcome applications interested in the following topics:

- fieldwork and sensory experiences;
- the different fields and kinds of sensory knowledge;
- theoretical contributions to phenomenological anthropology;
- explorative methodological models in sensory ethnography;
- critical evaluations of interpretative approaches.

To apply for the workshop, please send a short abstract of your research/proposed presentation (cca. 300 words), a short motivational letter and your cv. Applications should be sent to imola.puesoek@stud.uni-goettingen.de until **May 31st, 2024**. Applicants will be notified within two weeks regarding their acceptance.

Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers, but travelling costs to Cluj-Napoca will be borne by the participants.

Conveners: Áron Bakos, Babeş-Bolyai University
Imola Püsök, Georg August University of Göttingen

Cluj-Napoca, April 11th, 2024.