

## **WRITING ANTHROPOLOGY WORKSHOP SERIES 2020-2021**

Teachers: Autumn semester Anette Nyqvist, Spring semester Helena Wulff

First-year Master's Program students at the Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, September 2020 to June 2021.

Writing is the primary mode of communication for academics and thus for anthropologists. As the practice of writing has a central position in anthropology, it is a continuous topic for reflexive discussion. The Writing Anthropology Workshop Series for 1<sup>st</sup> year Master's Program students at the Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, aims at teaching students to write better by a combination of close reading and focus on structure and style of anthropological texts, *and* by applying the insights in writing exercises. It is expected that the writing workshop series will add extra value and teaching hours to the Master's program, offer the Master's students a different learning activity than the lecture/seminar format of the other courses, and in addition, work as a team-building activity for the students.

The Writing Anthropology Workshop Series consists of eight three-hour workshops spread out over two semesters. The workshop series runs throughout the first year of the Master's program and is integrated with the other courses of the program. Readings of the Master's Program courses are used during writing workshops to illustrate and exemplify the workshop's themes.

Each workshop begins with a short lecture when the teacher introduces the theme of the workshop. The main part of each workshop is dedicated to reading and writing exercises. The exercises all entail sharing one's writing with other students and reading each other's texts. Each workshop ends with a concluding discussion chaired by the teacher.

The workshops normally take place in the seminar room B600 at the Department of Social Anthropology once a month. Please note that, due to the covid-19 pandemic and precautions taken to mitigate the virus from spreading, all classes – including this workshop series – will continue to be held via Zoom until further notice. It is, of course, not optimal to hold writing workshops from a distance but we will have to make the best of the situation. The format of the workshops might have to be adjusted and some exercises may have to be altered but the general outline and content of the Writing Anthropology Workshop Series will remain the same.

Outline, details and dates for the workshops of the Spring semester will be announced at a later date.

### **Autumn 2020 with Anette**

#### **Workshop 1: Introduction to Anthropological Writing Wednesday 16 September at 14-17 via Zoom**

Introduction by teacher, to the workshop series, to anthropological writing genres and academic texts in particular. Also introduction of participants and their "writing history".

Exercise 1: Individually. Write a short reflection of yourself as a writer, include thoughts on what type of texts you prefer to write, your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and discuss what textual genres you prefer to read.

Exercise 2: Groups. Select one text from the History and Philosophy of Anthropological Theory course literature. Read, discuss and take note of what characterizes the text, how it is composed, what makes the text academic.

**Workshop 2: Developing an Argument**  
**Wednesday 14 October at 14-17 via Zoom**

Lecture on how to formulate research questions (aim of the study), develop an argument, including identifying key paragraphs, theory and methods, and reach conclusions.

Exercise 1: Two and two. Students have been asked to bring printouts of their Bachelor thesis or any other longer essay to the workshop. Skim through your partner's text, make particular notes on how the research question is formulated and how the argument is developed through the thesis. Give constructive feedback to each other.

Exercise 2: Groups. Close reading and discussion based on the article by Neha Vora and Tom Boellstorff (2012).

**Workshop 3: Style and Voice**  
**Wednesday 18 November at 14-17 hopefully in B600, otherwise via Zoom**

Lecture on style and voice in academic writing and particularly in ethnographic writing.

Exercise 1: Individually. Select one of the anthropologists represented in this semester's course literature. Write a paragraph on any topic *in the voice* of that anthropologist.

Exercise 2: Groups. Select one of the anthropologists represented in this semester's course literature. Browse through the author's books and articles to find defining features and specificities.

**Workshop 4: Writing an Abstract**  
**Wednesday 16 December at 14-17 hopefully in B600, otherwise via Zoom**

Lecture on how to write different types of abstracts for conference papers, journal articles, research proposals, master's thesis.

Exercise 1: Individually. Write an abstract of about 250 words.

Exercise 2: Groups. Write an abstract of an anthropological article or chapter that you find especially interesting.