

#Colleex - Collaboratory of Ethnographic Experimentation

November 2017 - Report of yearly activities

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#Colleex /*koli:gz*/ (yes, it's homophone to colleagues on purpose), or rather, the Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation was created in late 2016 as a network aiming to open a space for debate and intervention around experimental forms of ethnographic fieldwork. The network is organized as a collaboratory whose main agenda is to foster theoretical debates and practical explorations on what we call ethnographic experimentation.

Recent activities

Since its launch, #Colleex has carried out the following activities, we have:

- Set up a digital infrastructure composed of a digital forum (based on Google Group, <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/colleex>) with 237 members (as of November 2017) and a website (<https://colleex.wordpress.com/>)
- Published a thematic thread, that is, curated series of blog posts on the website of the Allegra association: <http://allegralaboratory.net/category/stuff/thematic-thread/>
- Organized an international workshop that under the title 'Ethnographic Experimentation: Fieldwork Devices and Companions', which gathered for three days in July 2017 in Lisbon attracting 100 scholars from all around the world (see <https://colleex.wordpress.com/1st-colleex-workshop-ethnographic-experimentation-fieldwork-devices-and-companions/>). The meeting was the network's launch event. It was accompanied by the publication of a thematic thread in AllegraLab, thematising some of the network's new found vocabulary: <https://colleex.wordpress.com/2017/09/27/allegra-lab-colleex/>

Future activities

Book launch. Next April 2018, 'Experimental Collaborations: Ethnography through Fieldwork Devices', edited by two of the network's convenors, and including several of the initial members of the network will be published in Berghahn's EASA Series: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/SanchezCriadoExperimental>

EASA's Stockholm Conference intervention. Based on EASA's recent wish to give an impulse to labs as relevant conference formats, for the next EASA conference in Stockholm the #Colleex network (Collaboratory of Ethnographic Experimentation) would like to propose hosting a panel, and promoting several more; also, we plan on submitting a lab proposal—tentatively titled "Lab is not blah: Learning anthropology through format experimentation". It is our hope that we could discuss the epistemic and pedagogic importance of a 'lab-oriented anthropology': that is, an anthropology that would not only take seriously the idea of labs of various kinds as legitimate ways to practice and renew anthropology, but also to push for recognising such enquiry as intellectually important and not just as a marginal or 'arty' extra aiming to spread the word about unconventional research.

#Colleex has been born as a dynamic and thriving network gathering wonderful scholars with a desire to keep on working together.