

#Colleex - Collaboratory of Ethnographic Experimentation

November 2017 - Report of non-conference workshop

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#Colleex /*kpli:gz*/ organized its first workshop—named ‘Ethnographic Experimentation: Fieldwork Devices and Companions’— in Lisbon in **July 13-15 2017** (you can view the call for contributions, as well as the programme and the book of abstracts here:

<https://colleex.wordpress.com/1st-colleex-workshop-ethnographic-experimentation-fieldwork-devices-and-companions/>)

The workshop gathered 67 presenters working with different presentation formats: the three mornings included presentations of papers that had been circulated in advance in 5 sessions: the afternoons comprised a series of installation, performance-based and audiovisual workshops that we gathered under the rubric of ‘open formats.’ The workshop had around 100 attendees, mainly from Europe and the Americas.

The event took place at the Jardim Botânico Tropical and was co-organized together with members of the Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS), Universidade de Lisboa (which provided the venues, and basic equipment), and EBANO Collective – Ethnography-Based Art Nomad Organisation (which not only helped us make ties with the local communities of anthropologists and relevant ethnography-inspired artists, but also produced, together with #Colleex, a thorough documentation of the event. This will be forthcoming in different media formats: a first installment in the form of a Storify account, can be accessed here:

<https://storify.com/tscriado/1st-colleex-workshop>). The event was accompanied by a thematic thread in AllegraLab, providing further context and showing some of the network’s new found vocabulary: <https://colleex.wordpress.com/2017/09/27/allegra-lab-colleex/>

Given the number of participants’ presentations (67) and diverse formats in relation to the length of the workshop (3 days), we decided to spend the granted funding sum (500€) on materials and personnel necessary for a successful event and seamless presentations. We therefore employed a technician (300€), Giorgio Gristina, whose contact we made through our partner organization EBANO, and who was present before, after and throughout the three days of the event. He helped us setting up the projectors and screens in the several different locations the workshop took place at within the Jardim. Particularly, the venue for hosting audiovisual presentations needed a more thorough set-up as well as changeovers from different formats of presentation. In order to darken the room, we bought black cloth to cover the windows (37,53€). Additionally, we were in need of extension cables, since the venue is not originally set up for academic presentations (10€).

The workshop in Lisbon was a vibrant meeting, which allowed many anthropologists from Europe (most of them EASA members) and beyond to meet. It was also an opportunity to meet several of the Canadian members of the ‘Centre for Imaginative Ethnography’, with which several plans to engage in cross-fertilizing exchanges have been devised. Most attendees expressed a desire to take part in a future non-conference year workshop in 2019, and the convenors received a formal proposal to host it in Warsaw.

