

# Towards the Ethnography of Super-Diversity

## A methodology workshop

Max Planck institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen  
17-18 June 2014

‘Super-diversity’ denotes a transformation of population patterns, especially arising from shifts in global mobility. Around the world over the past three decades, there have been increasing movements of people from more varied national, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds; in addition, there has been a diversification of migration channels, legal conditions, gender patterns, age ratios, transnational connections and forms of human capital. Such new complexities are evident in myriad urban contexts around the world – but how can we study them ethnographically?

Although there have been numerous significant calls to re-tool numerous social sciences in light of emergent societal complexities, many of our methods are arguably still not up to the task. In this informal workshop, we explore some of the theoretical and methodological issues at hand, and provide an inventory of some research techniques suggesting how we can best study. The format will not be a conventional one (i.e., research presentations, followed by Q&A); rather, we will ask each participant to offer a ten-minute ‘Impulsvortrag’ – a brief talk intended to kick-off discussion surrounding a particular theme, technique, and set of challenges around the task of fashioning the ethnography of super-diversity.



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## PROGRAM

### 17 June 2014 - Tuesday

- 13.30 – 14.00 Arrival at the Institute / Coffee and Tea
- 14.00 – 14.30 Setting the agenda (Steve Vertovec – MPI MMG)
- 14.30 – 16.00 Session 1: **Neighborhood, locality, housing**  
Ben Gidley (Oxford)  
Jörg Hüttermann (MPI)  
Kristen Biehl (MPI MMG)
- 16.00 – 16.30 Coffee and Tea
- 16.30 – 18.00 Session 2: **Multiple spatial realms**  
Sarah Neal (Surrey)  
Susanne Wessendorf (Birmingham)  
Ida Erstad (Oslo)
- 18.00 - Drinks with MPI staff
- 19.30 - Dinner

### 18 June 2014 - Wednesday

- 09.30 – 11.00 Session 3: **Institutions, actors, regulations**  
Mette Berg (Oxford)  
Suzi Hall (LSE)  
Paul Becker (MPI MMG)
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee and Tea
- 11.30 – 13.00 Session 4: **Flows, movement, patterns**  
Rosalyn Negron (UMass)  
Annelies Kusters (MPI MMG)  
Anna Seegers-Krueckenberg (MPI MMG)
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 16.00 General Discussion, Lessons, Wrapping Up
- 16.00 – 16.30 Coffee and Tea / Departure

*Some methodological concepts  
to think about throughout...*

- Immersion
- Spatial methods
- Visual methods
- Biographies
- Language
- Representation
- Mixed methods
- Collaborative research