

ECER Belgrade 2025, EERA NW19: Ethnography

Network meeting minutes

Convenor group leading the network meeting 2025: Carl Bagley, Clemens Wieser (link convenor), Florian Weitkämper, Gisela Unterweger (link convenor). Excused: Begoña Vigo.

Agenda

- Welcoming and Agenda
- Network Report
- Building our network
- Convenor Elections
- Outlook: Conferences & Events 2026
- Ways to stay in touch

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcoming

Gisela Unterweger opened the network meeting with a warm welcome and thanked all the participants for their engagement in the Ethnography Network. All convenors introduced themselves briefly and outlined their current perspectives in educational ethnography. Gisela then presented the agenda.

2. Network Report

Clemens Wieser presented the network report for ECER 2025. Submissions were solid and stable this year, with 24 individual paper submissions, one symposium, one research workshop, and two panel discussions. The ethnography network also organized two social activities: A network social at a café, and the network speed-dating.

The convenors expressed their gratitude to the network reviewers: Anja Sieber Egger (PH Zürich, Switzerland), Annette Rasmussen (Aalborg University, Denmark), Dennis Beach (Göteborg University, Sweden), Ingrid Kellermann (FU Berlin, Germany), Jürgen Budde (Flensburg University, Germany), Marianne Dovemark (Göteborg University, Sweden), Martin Forsey (University of Western Australia), Sarah Robinson (Aarhus University, Denmark), and Wes Shulmar (Drexel University, USA).

Clemens presented forthcoming publications by the ethnography network:

- A special issue in *Ethnography & Education* (Q1/2026): “Ethnography and Emotions. Methodological reflections on the exploration of emotions in education research” (REE 2023, Freiburg).
- A forthcoming special issue in *Ethnography & Education*: “Transformative Research for Education and Social Justice” (REE 2024, Zaragoza).

- Also forthcoming: An anthology based on the International Conference on Educational Ethnography (Zürich 2024).

Clemens presented the updated network procedures and guidelines, developed to strengthen democratic processes, transparency, and trust within the network. Since 2023, the convenor group has decided network procedures, outlining network objectives, convenor roles and responsibilities, and the election process. In 2024, the Ethnography Network also introduced reviewing and chairing guidelines to enhance the quality of feedback and session facilitation. Following this overview, participants were invited to share comments and questions.

Florian Weitkämper presented the Ethnography Zoom Sessions that started in 2024:

- Ethnography Zoom Sessions, fall term 2024, were organised by Clemens Wieser. The two sessions included presentations and group discussions with: Lisa Russell – Managing ethics when doing ethnographies. Katie Fitzpatrick – Relational ethics, belonging and coloniality in ethnographic research.
- Ethnography Zoom Sessions, spring term 2025, were organised by Florian Weitkämper. The two sessions included presentations and group discussions with: Annette Lareau and Blair Sackett – Refugees in Unequal America; Michalinos Zembylas – Affective Nationalism in a Conflict-Affected Society.

3. Building the network

Carl Bagley introduced this point, emphasising that the ethnography network aims to be:

- a place for thinking differently about people's lives, actions, and experiences;
- a platform that challenges common-sense conceptions of educational processes, policies, and outcomes;
- a meeting point for various styles of attending to “what is going on”;
- and a safe space that suspends local power regimes – to recollect how and why we are doing educational ethnography.

Quoting from the EERA blog Educational Ethnography, the convenors highlighted the aspiration to maintain a space that allows for creative and reflective forms of ethnographic engagement. Being active in the network can mean:

- seeing one's ethnography in an international context;
- learning about different cultures of doing ethnography;
- getting feedback from outside one's own academic bubble;
- sharing resources and exploring funding opportunities;
- making research visible on a European scale.

Members were encouraged to think of the ethnography network as their own platform and space – to initiate symposia, workshops, summer schools, or Zoom sessions.

4. Convenor Elections

Clemens outlined the procedure for the upcoming convenor elections 2026, in accordance with the established network procedures. Application process: Network members who are interested in becoming a convenor are invited to submit their applications via email, including a brief statement on their ethnographic position, ideas for advancing the network, and plans for community development. Each application must be supported by two other network members. The deadline is 1 May 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the convenor group, based on (1) contribution at ECER, (2) track record in educational ethnography, (3) regional representation, (4) gender balance, and (5) academic age (at least one PhD student). Elections will be held during the network meeting through an open ballot, with all network members eligible to vote.

5. Outlook

Gisela provided an overview of upcoming activities and events linked to the network. Publishing opportunities: Members were encouraged to submit ethnographic work to the T&F Journal "Ethnography & Education".

Upcoming conferences 2026:

- 12th Rethinking Educational Ethnography Conference, Bangor University, Wales (Lori Beckett & Graham French). Theme: "Ethnography for Policy Advocacy." Abstract submission ends 6 February 2026; paper invitations 27 February; final submission 1 May 2026; registration deadline 8 May 2026.
- 9th International Conference on Educational Ethnography, University of Münster, Germany, 3–5 September 2026 (Christina Huf & Markus Kluge).
- Ethnography & Education Conference, Oxford, September 2026.
- ECER 2026, Tampere (Finland), starting 17 August 2026.

Ethnography Zoom Sessions, fall term 2025:

- Organised by Gisela Unterweger & Anja Sieber Egger: Mindy Blaise and Catrina Aniere – "Counter-mapping with water stories, the Great Western Woodlands, Elders and young people" (24 November 2025, 10:30–12:00 CET). A second event is in planning.

6. Ways to stay in touch

The convenors concluded the meeting by inviting all members to stay connected through the following channels:

- EERA mailing list: nw19-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ethnographyineducation>

Clemens Wieser and Gisela Unterweger thanked all participants for their active engagement and closed the meeting with a group photo.