Network meeting minutes

Convenor group leading the network meeting 2024: Begoña Vigo Arrazola, Clemens Wieser (link convenor), Florian Weitkämper, Gisela Unterweger (link convenor).

Agenda
1) Welcoming and Agenda
2) Network Report
    a) ECER 2024 statistics; Publications
    b) Rethinking Educational Ethnography Conference 2024, Zaragoza
    c) International Educational Ethnography Conference 2024, Zurich
3) Plenary Discussion I: Good network experiences
4) Building the network together (with Plenary Discussion II)
5) Outlook
6) Q&A on publishing in E&E
7) Rethinking 2026
8) Ways to stay in touch

Minutes

1. Welcoming
Co-link convenor Clemens Wieser opened the network meeting with a warm welcome. All convenors introduced themselves and their research interests briefly.

Co-link convenor Gisela Unterweger presented the agenda. The convenors thanked all reviewers in the ethnography network for their dedicated and much-appreciated work.

2. Network Report
Gisela presented the current ECER statistics for the network activities in 2024 in Nicosia. Compared to the high level of contributions at ECER 2023 in Glasgow, the number of contributions was slightly lower, yet on a good level. Overall, the ethnography network received 30 submissions, 6 of which were withdrawn before the conference, which might have to do with the peripheral location of this year's conference. At ECER 2024, we saw 16 individual papers in 7 sessions, as well as two workshops, two panel discussions, one symposium with three presentations and a commentary, and two social activities, one of which was a celebratory event honouring the 20th anniversary of the ethnography network.

Gisela then presented two publications resulting from the previous ethnography conferences tied to the network 19:
- A Special Issue 2025 on "Ethnography and Emotions" in the journal Ethnography & Education, based on submissions of REE Conference 2023 in Freiburg, Germany.
- The publication of two volumes from the 7th International Conference on Educational Ethnography that took place in 2022 in Flensburg, Germany.

Report on the 11th Rethinking Educational Ethnography Conference
Convenor Begoña Vigo Arrazola then presented a short report of the 11th Rethinking Educational Ethnography Conference on "Rethinking Critical Ethnography: Interconnections between doing ethnography and transformation in educational contexts", in Zaragoza, Spain, in June 2024. The Rethinking Educational Ethnography (REE) Conference is a conference in-between ECER conferences,

organized by ethnography network members. REE 2024 was organised by Begoña, together with local, national and international colleagues from the ethnography network: Belén Dieste (U de Zaragoza), Lisa Bugno (U. Padova), Carl Bagley (Queens' U of Belfast and Co-Convenor), Juana Sancho-Gil (U de Barcelona), Fernando Hernández-Hernández (U de Barcelona), David Poveda (U Autónoma de Madrid), Lisa Russell (U de Huddersfield), and Dennis Beach (U de Boras). At REE 2024, 26 papers were presented.

Report on the 8th International Conference on Educational Ethnography
Gisela reported on the 8th International Conference on Educational Ethnography which took place in June 2024 at the Zurich University of Teacher Education in Switzerland with about 120 participants. The organizing committee included Gisela and several other educational ethnographers working in Switzerland: Anja Sieber Egger, Felizitas Juen, Georg Rissler, Simone Brauchli, and Tobias Röhl. The conference dealt with the latest discussions about ethnographic writing and was named accordingly – "Re-Writing (against) Culture. Ethnographic writing in educational ethnography: practices, approaches, innovations, and positionings". The conference theme was connected to the "Writing Culture" debate of the 1990ies and dealt with a wide array of questions around ethnographic writing, such as positionalities within relations of power and how they reflect in the written ethnographic accounts, questions of representation, and writing practices. The participants of this international conference traditionally mainly come from German-speaking ethnographic communities. With the aspiration to attract international researchers, some keynotes were held in English, and there was an English session in each parallel slot.

3. Plenary Discussion: Experiences from the ethnography network
Convenor Florian Weitkämper facilitated a plenary discussion to involve all present network members. Florian initiated the discussion with some questions: What do you value in the ethnography network? What are the most inspiring and insightful moments that you had in the ethnography network and/or at other networks and conferences?

Members of the ethnography network stated:
- Having two presentations (instead of three) in each paper session was regarded as very valuable, as this provided more time for discussion.
- Having a focus on shared interests in ethnography and discussing this common ground was also regarded as valuable.
- The network was seen as a comfortable and safe place where you learn from each other and can give insight also about where you are struggling
- Last year's speed dating element at the NW meeting generated a good experience as a space & place where you can get in touch easily
- For a German member, networking outside and beyond the German-speaking ethnographic community was very valuable because it was a much more decentralized discussion. There was a potential for future developments detected here.
- The relatively small size of the network was experienced as valuable as well, because it is possible to form relations on a personal level relatively quickly.

4. Building the network together
Clemens presented the convenor groups' aim to build the ethnography network together with all the members who want to get engaged. The convenor group aims to make the EERA ethnography network a space to recollect how and why we are doing educational ethnography. Being active in the network can relate to learning about different cultures of doing ethnography, getting feedback from researchers in the European community, and making research seen on a European scale. Members were invited to discuss what they would like to see happen in the ethnography network in terms of activities and formats, and what we should do more of together as a network.

Members of the ethnography network stated:
- It would be good to send a promotional e-mail to the network members about how 'membership' is achieved, before the conference. Several participants in the meeting were uncertain about their status as network members. Clemens commented that all researchers who actively attend the network are considered to be members of the ethnography network, be it as presenters, discussants, or during the network meeting.
- The speed-dating was a well-received opportunity for networking. Some members commented that it would be best to organise a speed-dating at the beginning of the conference.
- Some members underlined that they would like to see more activities around the year besides the main ECER conference, such as regular Zoom meetings, and informal places to connect digitally. While the ethnography network maintains a Facebook group and the official EERA network mailing list, there was an interest in exploring additional channels for exchange.
- Network members also expressed an interest in a journal that is hosted by the network, with a lower threshold than Ethnography and Education.

5. Outlook
For the outlook, the convener group presented two planned biannual ethnographic conferences with ties to the network 19.

The **12ᵗʰ Rethinking Educational Ethnography Conference** will be held in 2026 in Bangor, Wales (UK), organised by Lori Beckett and Graham French.

The **9ᵗʰ International Educational Ethnography Conference**, rooted in the German-speaking ethnography community, takes place at the University of Münster, Germany in 2026, organised by Christina Huf and Markus Kluge.

[Ethnography and Education](#) editorial board member Dennis Beach presented ways for publishing ethnographic work in the journal and illustrated that publications based on a conference paper are welcome for submission. The following Q&A was used to clarify specific questions related to the publishing process.

6. Ways to stay in touch
The convenors closed the network meeting and highlighted two ways to stay in touch: Firstly, the EERA network mailing, which can be reached via nw19@lists.eera-ecer.de. Secondly, the ECER NW 19 Facebook group, which can be found at https://www.facebook.com/groups/ethnographyineducation. Both channels enable members of the ethnography network to stay in touch with the community and to receive updates on activities in the ethnography network.