



# The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)

By Luke Eric Lassiter

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Collaboration between ethnographers and subjects has long been a product of the close, intimate relationships that define ethnographic research. But increasingly, collaboration is no longer viewed as merely a consequence of fieldwork; instead collaboration now preconditions and shapes research design as well as its dissemination. As a result, ethnographic subjects are shifting from being informants to being consultants. The emergence of collaborative ethnography highlights this relationship between consultant and ethnographer, moving it to center stage as a calculated part not only of fieldwork but also of the writing process itself.

*The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography* presents a historical, theoretical, and practice-oriented road map for this shift from incidental collaboration to a more conscious and explicit collaborative strategy. Luke Eric Lassiter charts the history of collaborative ethnography from its earliest implementation to its contemporary emergence in fields such as feminism, humanistic anthropology, and critical ethnography. On this historical and theoretical base, Lassiter outlines concrete steps for achieving a more deliberate and overt collaborative practice throughout the processes of fieldwork and writing. As a participatory action situated in the ethical commitments between ethnographers and consultants and focused on the co-construction of texts, collaborative ethnography, argues Lassiter, is among the most powerful ways to press ethnographic fieldwork and writing into the service of an applied and public scholarship.

A comprehensive and highly accessible handbook for ethnographers of all stripes, *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography* will become a fixture in the development of a critical practice of anthropology, invaluable to both undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty alike.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“This is a user friendly, accessible, and highly effective treatment of the practice of collaborative ethnography. Because of the changing politics and circumstances for doing fieldwork anywhere in the world, collaboration has needed to become an even more conscious component of method rather than just an awareness of mere critical sensitivity. *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography* is the first work to tackle the problem of shifting collaboration as part of the ideology of fieldwork. Here, Luke Eric Lassiter makes it part of the norms and forms of practice rather than its secret or unspoken condition. He thus recuperates collaboration and brings it from the ideology of fieldwork to an integral and explicit form of method.”--George Marcus, Rice University

(George Marcus *George Marcus* 2005-05-15)

“A clear, comprehensive, and forceful description of the history, theory, and practice of collaborative ethnography, *The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography* propels anthropological practice into the social and political vortex of twenty-first-century social life. Luke Eric Lassiter complements long-standing discussions of the ethics of fieldwork practice with an insightful description of the complex and varied practices of collaborative reading and writing. Artfully filled with illustrative examples of the impact of collaboration on ethnographic research, this important and timely book is a must read for any scholar who plans to conduct social research.”--Paul Stoller, West Chester University and Temple University

(Paul Stoller *Paul Stoller* 2005-06-01)

"[The book] promises to provide essential classroom material for budding anthropologists. Not only does Lassiter articulate the epistemological basis for cutting-edge ethnography, he also provides concrete examples of anthropological praxis that seeks to empower real people."

(Samuel R. Cook *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*)

"Compulsory reading for all budding ethnographers."

(Ian S. McIntosh *Australian Journal of Anthropology*)

"I declare myself greatly satisfied by this book. It is a welcome reminder that in the pursuit of knowledge those who possess and are custodians of it should be rightly acknowledged."

(Susan Young *Anthropological Forum*)

"Lassiter presents a historical, theoretical, and practice-oriented road map for shift from incidental collaboration to a more conscious and explicit collaborative strategy. . . . It's a very important and timely, comprehensive and accessible book."

(Waldemar Kuligowski *Anthropos*)

### From the Inside Flap

Collaboration between ethnographers and subjects has long been a product of the close relationships that define ethnographic research. But increasingly, collaboration is no longer viewed as merely a consequence of

fieldwork; instead collaboration now preconditions and shapes research design as well as its dissemination. As a result, ethnographic subjects are becoming consultants rather than just informants. The emergence of collaborative ethnography highlights this relationship between consultant and ethnographer, moving it to center stage as a calculated part not only of fieldwork but also of the writing process itself.

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#### About the Author

**Luke Eric Lassiter** is professor and director of the graduate humanities program at Marshall University Graduate College. He is the author or coauthor of four previous books, including *Invitation to Anthropology*.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

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The book The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the good thing like a book The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)? A few of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim that will book can give many information for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you could give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book The Chicago Guide to Collaborative Ethnography (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

#### Enrique Boggs:

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