

## **Ethnographic Experiments in the Anthropology of Biosecurity**

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This workshop is intended to engage in conversation the three principal investigators of an ambitious, innovative enterprise in collaborative ethnographic research. The forms of ethnographic research are changing within the designs and ambitions of such collective projects. Our interest will be primarily to reflect upon and clarify changes in standard practices and techniques of ethnographic inquiry that this research group is improvising as it launches its projects within the contemporary trend by government and private agencies of sponsoring research on biosecurity. This group is primarily interested what becomes of basic knowledge when research is sponsored under these auspices. What is distinctive about this Laboratory is the attempt to conduct ethnography within a radically conceived notion of temporality where "the contemporary" defines a condition of dynamism in which structures and norms within familiar institutions and arrangements are in such flux that ethnography can no longer depend on the usual historical precedents and social theoretical framing concepts to launch it. What is required is a more radical derivation of the analytic apparatus of ethnography from working collaborations with subjects whose understandings of events and processes in which they are involved guide the adoption of an analytic apparatus of ethnography itself. Such an operation requires new ways of thinking about designing ethnography which is the challenge that this research group takes up in pursuing subjects through an understanding of contemporaneity that resists easy conceptual manipulation.

As a recurrent feature of this Center, this workshop will be the first of a planned series that engages and follows the course of initiatives which attempt to revive collective and collaborative contexts for projects of ethnography that still remain highly individualistic in execution.