



Information Technologies and Social Media: New Scientific Methods for the Anthropocene
Gaetano Sabato, Joan Rosselló (Eds.)

Mediated subjects and interconnected days. Facebook as fieldwork

Stefano Montes¹

Abstract

I investigate digital information and the everyday by primarily concentrating on Facebook and on the connections taking place between myself – a user who is also an anthropologist – and some other individuals on the net. I draw on my activities and I take into account the ethnographic aspects involved in these activities associating daily life and social media. I show how the digital world questions the traditional conception of place-based ethnography and tends to turn field research into a more reflexive phenomenon. In this perspective, I focus on Facebook considering it a field site resulting from the intersection of the human and the digital. Ultimately, I'll try to show how the digital world has impacted ethnographic methods of research and, at the same time, some essential concepts such as simulation, technology, interaction, identity, authorship and the everyday itself.

Keywords: ethnography, everyday, simulation, interaction, identity

Works cited

- Augé M., 1995 (1992), *Non-Places. Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*, trans. by J. Howe, Verso, London and New York.
- Augé M., 2002 (1986), *In the Metro*, trans. by T. Conley, The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Augé M., 2018 (2004), *Cuori allo schermo. Vincere la solitudine dell'uomo digitale*, trad. di A. M. Foli, Piemme, Milano.
- Augé M., 2011, *Journal d'un SDF. Ethnofiction*, Seuil, Paris.
- Augé M., *Everyone Dies Young. Time Without Age*, trans. by J. Gladding, Columbia University Press, New York, 2016 (2014)
- Barker T. S., 2012, *Time and the Digital. Connecting Technology, Aesthetics, and a Process Philosophy of Time*, Dartmouth College Press, Hanover, New Hampshire.
- Baron N. S., 2008, *Always On. Language in an Online and Mobile World*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Bateson G., 1972, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, Jason Aronson Inc., Northvale (N.J.), London.
- Bateson G., 1979, *Mind and Nature. A Necessary Unit*, Fontana, Glasgow.
- Bégout B., 2018, *La découverte du quotidien*, Fayard/Pluriel, Paris.
- Clifford J., 1997, *Routes. Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge (Mass.).
- Coffey A., 1999, *The Ethnographic Self: Fieldwork and the Representation of Identity*, Sage, London.
- Cohen E., 2002, *Challenges of Information Technology Education in the 21st Century*, Idea Group Publishing, London.
- Collins P., Gallinat A., eds., 2010, *The Ethnographic Self as Resource. Writing Memory and Experience into Ethnography*, Berghahn, New York and Oxford.

¹ Department of Culture and Society, University of Palermo, Italy, e-mail: stefano.montes@unipa.it.



Information Technologies and Social Media: New Scientific Methods for the Anthropocene
Gaetano Sabato, Joan Rosselló (Eds.)

- Crapanzano V., 2004, *Imaginative Horizons. An Essay in Literary-Philosophical Anthropology*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London.
- Das V., 2020, *Textures of the Ordinary. Doing Anthropology after Wittgenstein*, Fordham University Press, New York.
- De Certeau M., 1984 (1980), *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. by S. Randall, University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Foucault M., 1969. "Qu'est-ce qu'un auteur?", in *Dits et écrits*, ed. by D. Defert, F. Ewald, J. Lagrange, Gallimard, Paris, 789-821
- Garsten C., Wulff H., eds., 2003, *New Technologies at Work. People, Screens and Social Virtuality*, Berg, New York.
- Greenfield A., 2017, *Radical Technologies. The Design of Everyday Life*, Verso, London.
- Geertz C., 1988, *Works and lives. The Anthropologist as Author*, Stanford University Press, Stanford.
- Gupta A., Ferguson J., eds., 1997, *Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science*, University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Hastrup K., 1995, *A Passage to Anthropology. Between Theory and Experience*, Routledge, London.
- Hindman M., 2018, *The Internet Trap. How the Digital Economy Builds Monopolies and Undermines Democracy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Hine C., 2008, *Systematics as Cyberscience. Computers, Change, and Continuity in Science*, The MIT Press Cambridge (Mass.), London.
- Hine C., 2015, *Ethnography for the Internet: Embedded, Embodied and Everyday*, Bloomsbury, London.
- Horst H. A., Miller D., eds., 2012, *Digital Anthropology*, Berg, New York.
- Ingold T., 2022, *Imagining for Real. Essays on Creation, Attention and Correspondence*, Routledge, New York.
- Jackson M., 1995, *At Home in the World*, Duke University Press, Durham and London.
- Jackson M., 2005, *Existential Anthropology. Events, Exigencies, Effects*, Berghahn, New York and Oxford.
- Jackson M., Piette A., eds., 2015, *What is Existential Anthropology*, Berghahn, New York and Oxford.
- Jakobson R., 1960, "Closing Statements: Linguistics and Poetics", in *Style in Language*, ed. by T. A. Sebeok, John Wiley, New York and London, 350-377.
- Ji D. Y., 2015, *Digital Platforms, Imperialism and Political Culture*, Routledge, New York and London.
- Kent M., Leaver T., eds., 2014, *An Education in Facebook? Higher Education and the World's Largest Social Network*, Routledge, New York and London.
- Lévi-Strauss C., 1987 (1950), *Introduction to the Work of Marcel Mauss*, trans. by F. Baker, Routledge, London.
- Merleau-Ponty M., 1945, *Phénoménologie de la perception*, Gallimard, Paris.
- Miller D., 2011, *Tales from Facebook*, Polity, Cambridge.
- Miller D. et al., 2016, *How the World Changed Social Media*, UCL Press, London.
- Miller D., Sinanan J., 2017, *Visualizing Facebook*, UCL Press, London.
- Montes S., 2019, "Un antropologo su facebook", *Dialoghi Mediterranei*, n. 35, January 2019, on-line journal, Istituto Euro Arabo in Mazara del Vallo.
- Perec G., 1997 (1973), *Species of spaces and other pieces*, ed. and trans. by J. Sturrock, Penguin, London.
- Piette A., 1992, *Le mode mineur de la réalité*, Peeters, Louvain.



Geographies
of the
Anthropocene

OPEN
ACCESS
PEER-REVIEWED
SERIES
ISSN 2011-3171

IL Sileno
Edizioni

Information Technologies and Social Media: New Scientific Methods for the Anthropocene
Gaetano Sabato, Joan Rosselló (Eds.)

- Ploug T., 2009, *Ethics in Cyberspace: How Cyberspace May Influence Interpersonal Interaction*, Springer, London.
- Sheringham M., 2006, *Everyday Life. Theories and Practices from Surrealism to the Present*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Sontag S., 1966, "The Anthropologist as Hero", in *Against Interpretation and Other Essays*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 53-61.
- Stewart K., 2007, *Ordinary affects*, Duke University Press, Durham and London.
- Turkle S., 1984, *The Second Self. Computers and the Human Spirit*, MIT Press, Cambridge (MA).
- Turkle S., ed., 2009, *Simulation and its discontents*, MIT Press, Cambridge (MA).
- Turkle S., 2011, *Alone Together. Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*, Basic Books, New York.
- Van Gennep A., 1960 (1909), *The Rites of Passage*, Routledge, London and New York.
- Whitehead N. L., 2012, "Are We There Yet? The End of Anthropology Is Beyond the Human", in Whitehead N. L., Wesch M., eds., *Human no More. Digital Subjectivities, Unhuman Subjects, and the End of Anthropology*, University Press of Colorado, Boulder, 217-230.
- Wittkower D. E., 2010, "A Reply to Facebook Critics", in *Facebook and Philosophy. What's on your mind?*, ed. by Wittkower D. E., Open Court, Chicago and La Salle, 2010, 21-30.