

Criminology 321

*** Observation * Ethnography**

*** Field Research**



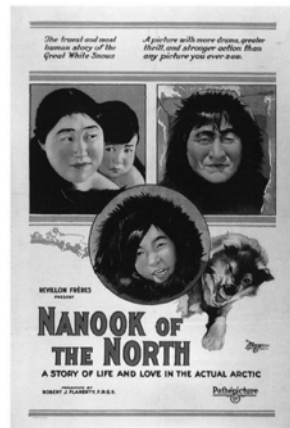
Video Ethnography

- One example is Margolis's video ethnography of coal miners in Colorado
- Very collaborative; folks thrilled to be asked; lined up to be interviewed
- Notice the triangulation – interviews coupled with archival info of various sorts
- Talks about “public editing” to get the story straight; aimed for “comprehension” instead of manipulation, imposition

Video Ethnography

- Many similarities with documentary film
- You start crossing into ethnography when it is cultures or subcultures you are trying to understand in a more holistic way using multiple sources *in situ* over time
- However, much documentary tries to do exactly that
- What do *you* think is the difference?

Video Documentary? Ethnography?



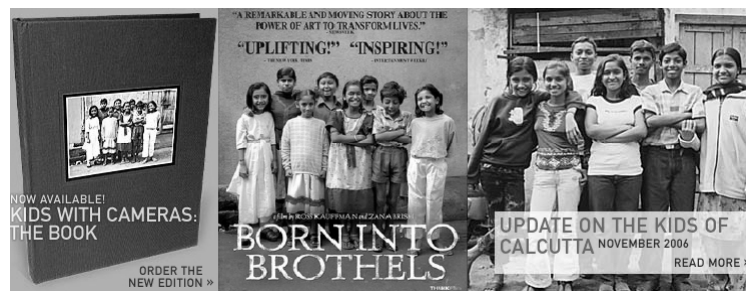
- One early documentary filmmaker was Robert Flaherty, whose *Nanook of the North* (1922) is a classic
- Less contrived and more informative than Curtis, but still his story – that of an external person interested in an “other”

Video Ethnography

- Ubiquity of relatively inexpensive digital camcorders and video editing software make video ethnography a plausible alternative within the reach of many
- Several projects where kids are given cameras and encouraged to photo/video their world, e.g., “*My Life as a Child*” on TLC

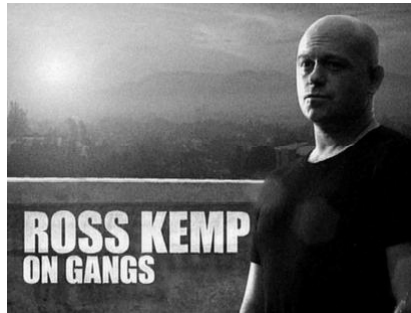
Video Ethnography

- Another example: *Born Into Brothels*
- See www.kids-with-cameras.org



Video Ethnography

- Another example: *Ross Kemp on Gangs*



Video Ethnography

- We viewed Ross Kemp's production on gangs in Rio in class. It is available in five parts on Youtube:

1: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6wdm8_ross-kemp-on-gangs-brazil-rio-de-ja_news

2: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6wdr9_ross-kemp-on-gangs-brazil-rio-de-ja_news

3: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6wdx1_ross-kemp-on-gangs-brazil-rio-de-ja_news

4: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6we4b_ross-kemp-on-gangs-brazil-rio-de-ja_news

5: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6we7g_ross-kemp-on-gangs-brazil-rio-de-ja_news

Ross Kemp on Gangs

- Very much in the ethnographic tradition
- Must deal with gatekeepers
- Wants to understand; addresses concerns regarding confidentiality
- Looking at multiple perspectives on the issue – members of two gangs, police, government officials, corrections

Transitions

- The course survey is a useful transition for the home stretch, in which we will
 - discuss how to identify and code patterns and themes in your data
 - consider impacts of digital technologies on the research process
 - consider other ways that video in particular is playing a bigger and bigger role in research