anthropology 605::fieldwork::missions

mission 4: interview

Conduct an interview (30 min to 1 hr max). Based on your observation of events and the people you've met, choose one person (potentially more than one person at a time) to conduct an interview with. Set up a time as soon as possible, and prepare questions/topics ahead of time. You may conduct as many interviews as you have time for, but in the end you must choose only 30-60 mins to transcribe.

Questions:
What kind of interview are you doing? Structured? Open-ended? Will you stick to the questions or let the conversation develop?

Have you talked to the subject already? Will you ask them similar questions as in an informal chat, or new questions? That is, do you know already what you want to get on tape, or are you trying to find out something new?

Checklist:

1. Have you set up a time and place?
2. Do you need/have a release form/informed consent/copyright license?
    a. Copyright? Copyright in a recording must be negotiated at the outset, if you ever intend to distribute or publish it.
3. Who will come with you to help with the recording equipment?
4. Did you reserve/check out recording equipment?
    a. The Fieldwork lab is in possession of one video camera, and two minidisk recorders. The ERC in the library has more resources.
5. Did you test the equipment; are the batteries working?

Due Date: The last possible date for *conducting* an interview is Nov. 5. Presentations will happen on Nov. 13.

Issues: trust; responsibility; IRB approval/consent; copyright; timing; staged vs. spontaneous dialogue; adversarial interviews vs. friendly.

Skills: question asking; dialogue; building rapport

Technology: audio/video recording. Using backup. Coming to grips with the hell of data formats.