Kristoffer Albris & Samantha Breslin: Computational Anthropology

Computational anthropology involves the application of techniques and methods from computer science, data science, and digital methods for data collection and analysis. Computational anthropology complements traditional anthropological and ethnographic methods as well as analytical and theoretical thinking within the discipline. Although computational anthropology is still an emergent and hybrid field, it holds great potential in the way it draws inspiration from both digital anthropology, digital methods, and more quantitative traditions in the social sciences. In this chapter, we present several case studies that showcase different approaches to computer anthropology, with a focus on how computer science methods and techniques can be combined with ethnographic methods. We particularly focus on online data collection, network visualization and automated content analysis. In conclusion, we discuss relevant epistemological, methodological, and ethical challenges facing an emergent computational anthropology.

Keywords: digital technologies, digital methods, data science, netnography, networks, content analysis

Freja Marie Hegelund, Katrine Vintov og Inge-Merete Hougaard: The Wind of Change: Storytelling and Farmers’ Freedom in the Green Transition

In light of the global climate and biodiversity crisis, the role of agriculture is challenged. In Denmark, it has been politically agreed to withdraw 100,000 hectares of low-lying organic soils from agricultural production, and new nature management projects arise to address biodiversity decline. This article explores how farmers position themselves in the changing societal conditions and the green transition of the agricultural sector. With point of departure in collaborative fieldwork in Skalsådalen in Central Jutland, this article explores how the concept of farmers’ freedom can be understood through storytelling. Through an analysis of farmers’ stories about farming, nature and landscape, the article argues that local farmers assert their place in the social and physical landscape through storytelling in three ways: They position agriculture as part of Danish nature; they dispute the scientific base of nature management projects
and highlight their own local knowledge; and they stage their own activities in the landscape as solution to societal challenges of climate and biodiversity. In this way, farmers mobilize a claim of autonomy and self-determination through storytelling, and use storytelling as a strategy to gain influence in the negotiation over their place in the landscape. The article contributes to the anthropological understanding of farmers’ freedom, by showing how farmers use storytelling to navigate changes and external demands and position themselves in the landscape. Further, in the current process of green transition in the agricultural sector, which requires willingness and collaboration, storytelling reveals that farmers and public authorities have divergent ideas and understanding of what nature is. This divergence must be recognized and illustrates a need for further dialogue if the actors in the landscape should cooperate in the green transition.

Keywords: agriculture, farmers, green transition, farmers’ freedom, storytelling, nature management

Olivia Norma Jørgensen: Double Binds: An Anthropological Analysis of the Framework for Industrial Ph.D.s

Based on the author’s own experiences as an Industrial PhD funded by the Danish Innovation Fund, the article centres on the expectations the PhD student is met with from several stakeholders in the research. The difficulties PhD students experience when being part of several workplaces have been known for years. Taking a point of departure in the known challenges, the article broadens our understanding of the zero-sum-game the Industrial PhD is part of, where the dual role can lead to the PhD student not being able to deliver high quality work in any of the two workplaces. The article does not bring answers, but argues that we, as a scientific community, need to have a debate on the changed funding landscape, and how the Industrial funding impacts the rules of the game on how research in the humanities and social sciences are undertaken.

Keywords: industrial research, double bind, situated learning, zero sum games, production of knowledge, education