

ANTH 233 Ethnographic Studies  
Winter 2019

I acknowledge that St FX is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

**Mar. 11, 14, 18, 21, 25: Virtual anthropology: Ethnography and ICTs.** What is digital (or virtual) anthropology? What form does digital ethnography take? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

Does everyone have (or want) access to ICTs?

**READ:** Fotopoulou, Aristeia. 2016. "Digital and Networked by Default? Women's Organisations and the Social Imaginary of Networked Feminism." *New Media & Society* 18(6): 989-1005.

Baumer, Eric P. S. Et al. 2015. "On the Importance and Implications of Studying Computer Non-Use." *Interactions*. 22 (2), 52-56.

Expressing the imperative to plug in:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/02/4-reasons-4-billion-people-are-still-offline/>

US national day of unplugging: (note the irony that this is promoted online)

<https://www.nationaldayofunplugging.com/>

- is use of digital technologies and digital networking **obligatory**?
  - what are the benefits of using (specific) digital technologies and networking platforms?
  - what are the downsides of using (specific) digital technologies and networking platforms?
- re Fotopoulou: what is the context within which she is conducting her study, in terms of the political economy and the organizations she focuses on?
  - how do these organizations feel pressured to use digital social media?
  - how does this shape what they do, how they define their priorities?
  - does digital engagement actually democratize? Or is it a mechanism that allows governments to limit their responsibility, as part of a neoliberal agenda?
- re Baumer et al.: what is the range of "non-use" identified by participants in their workshops?
  - volitional and non-volitional use and non-use (the role of agency, barriers, disinterest)
  - what technologies do research subjects identify as their use/non-use, when asked? Why is it important to get this emic view of digital technology?
  - how do most people actually engage in BOTH use and non-use?
- how can we study ethnographically digital use and non-use?