

Lic. Phil. Vera Kaufmann (Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Berne)

Parallels and triangles resulting in depth – an interactive-reflexive approach in Visual Anthropology

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Filming people and asking them questions, a classical way of doing Visual Anthropology, is still valuable but somewhat one-dimensional. In search for more depth and concerned with questions of ethnographic authority, I tried the following setting: After defining pairs of informants, featuring comparable concerns in different circumstances, I established a kind of dialogue within the pairs by showing them the other's portraits and interviews and giving them the occasion for feedback and finally an encounter. While observing this interactive process within the different pairs of informants, a reflexive and quite challenging dimension emerged: the dialogues of the different pairs pointed to diverse and partly unforeseen fields of theory. To some extent, those differences could be explained with the different circumstances distinguishing the pairs of informants, but nevertheless this method challenges the research design and its underlying presuppositions and therefore gives the chance to get through to unexpected questions and results.

The Sky's Shadings

Cultural Perspectives in Interaction

A film by Vera Kaufmann

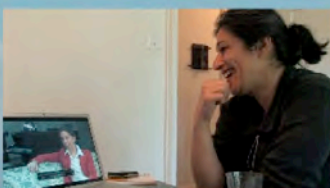
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The film opposes impressions, experiences and convictions of a Cameroonian couple and an Iranian woman living in Switzerland to those of Swiss having lived in Cameroon respectively in Iran for a couple of years.

By the means of a structuring montage technique, increasing denseness and evocative elements, the construction of the cultural conceptions of Self and Other and their interaction by the protagonists is approached.

Over the film's course, different variants of interpretation and diverging discourses concerning the variability or permanence of these conceptions are elaborated and put up for discussion.



Original languages French, German, English
English subtitles 89 min. 16:9

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