CAPOD Funding Report

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>Writing Across Boundaries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of event</td>
<td>6-7 of April 2017</td>
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</tbody>
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1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

This ESRC sponsored event focuses on helping social science researchers who use qualitative data learn to write effectively, practically and intellectually while engaging the widest audience possible, both inside and outside of academia. The goal of the workshop is to learn to produce both accurate, insightful texts and texts that remain interesting and readable.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

When it comes to writing up your thesis, oftentimes the stress is put on the accuracy and theoretical aspects of the research. Yet, this is the aspect that can make it most inaccessible for a general public. This workshop provided a space to question a number of writing techniques and consider more broadly how we conceive of our audience, who we are writing for, and how we may make our written work accessible to the largest spread of readers. It very much helped me put my writing into perspective, but also provided techniques and strategies to actually put into practice the critiques highlighted by the workshop. We also spoke about overcoming writers block and other techniques to advance the writing process.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

While it sounds strange, before the workshop I had not actually thought much about style or accessibility of my written work. I, of course, wanted to write well, but this workshop helped me think more deeply about how to write. I am much more aware of audience, of what styles of writing appeal to different groups of readers, especially non-academic readers, in hopes that I will be able to transfer my research knowledge into usable, post-PhD texts that will help advance my presence and career both inside and outside of academia.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

There is a fantastic website dedicated both to this project (for post-grads https://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/) and some material on the act of writing by preeminent qualitative researchers around the world. Here is the website: https://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/writingonwriting/
5. Tips/experience learned from the event

-Do not shy away from description. Description can be the most engaging part of written work that uses ethnography, especially for non-academic audiences.

-Writing on paper and not at a computer can oftentimes help challenge the way you see the process of writing and the work you produce. It can be a good way to overcome writer’s block, but also a way to reconsider aspect of your project that are overcomplicated.

-Write everyday

-Conceive of research writing in terms of stories as well. Question what is the story you hope to convey with your research and analysis.

-Always consider your audience, whether it is an examiner, a supervisor, other academics or the general public. It should always be a consideration, but do not let it dictate or paralyse your writing.

-Consider the type of writer you are, narrativistic or episodic, and work with that style and not against it

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

In terms of analysing the event itself, it is interesting how much more engaged anthropology and other social science are at this moment with notions of descriptive writing and reaching larger audiences. I think it shows that workshops like this and those through CAPOD, as well as some our department has organized, are really important. It is important to be able to start dialogues outside of academia and within/interdisciplinary as well. Stressing good, clear, accessible writing seems like the first step.

Date Report submitted: 10 April 2017