



## Doing Sociology as Non-sociologist: My Way and Endeavour

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I was among the few PhD students enrolled in the Department of Sociology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) with no background in the subject. Nonetheless, I am definitely not the only one to benefit from academic training in sociology. Before beginning the PhD programme, I worked in the legal profession for several years. Not all the legal disputes for which I was engaged left both parties satisfied, though most of them stood up well to legal scrutiny. This is partly due to the fact that most legal cases epitomize interactions and conflicts between and among individuals or institutions, whereas any given legal system may not be capable of sorting out in any meaningful way the complex human and social aspects of people. The roles and discourses embodied by people drive their expectations of and strategies for, as well as the affordability of and accessibility to, the justice system. It was primarily because of this that I turned to sociology.

Since graduating from CUHK, I have served as director of legal affairs for a top hospital in Shanghai. Beyond being involved in settling disputes, my enthusiasm for sociology attracted me to a general hospital in the expectation it would be a perfect milieu for sociological observation and examination. Though research is not my main mission, my understanding of the sociological perspectives has been immensely helpful in tackling the legal work.

[See Full Article](#)

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## ERRATUM

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In the last issue, one of the authors' name was miss-spelled at the "publications" section. The corrected information is "Xu, X. 2022. "Look, Robots!": The dynamic construction of artificial intelligent robot's social role(s) in service practices. Science and Society [in Chinese] ([read the article](#))" We sincerely apologize to XU Xinzhi and all the readers

## Thoughts about Doing Ethnography

Lingxi CHEN

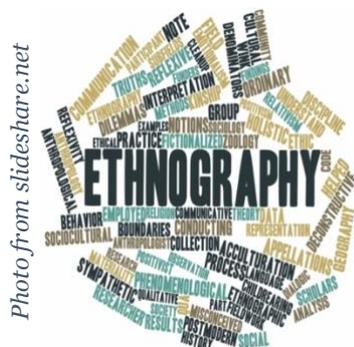


Photo from slideshare.net

Doing ethnography is just like taking an adventure. Thus, you need to have a healthy body, strong will, and the ability to approach people you want to know. Here I would like to share with you some tips about doing ethnography.

Keep writing fieldnotes every day. You can write down the events you have experienced and your thoughts separately. In other words, you can write two fieldwork diaries one day. The title of one diary can be, for example, '2022 May 20 Events', and that of the other can be '2022 May 20 Thoughts'. If you find it difficult to write notes, you can record your fieldnotes verbally. Your mobile phone can be a useful tool for writing fieldnotes and verbal recording.

Create chances to interact. Interactions are important when doing fieldwork. To create more opportunities for interaction, DO NOT JUST WAIT! If possible, you can voluntarily share snacks, have lunches, or take walks with people you want to investigate.

Seek helps from other scholars. During fieldwork, you will encounter many unexpected challenges and difficulties. Take it easy since you are not the only one who finds doing fieldwork difficult. When facing obstacles, you should focus on how to solve them instead of just being obsessed with negative feelings. During such a 'dark time', you can ask your supervisor or other reliable scholars you have known for help. You can ask for suggestions from several people and gain diverse opinions.

Remember to relax. Doing ethnography is intensive and you need to create a chance to relax yourself to achieve 'sustainable development'. You can go shopping, go out to eat, or visit museums if possible. Just forgetting your research for a while will make your fieldwork better.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ✓ Job Ads

- Assistant Professor/Research Assistant Professor, Sociology and Social Policy, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. **Deadline for Applications: June 27, 2022** [[See the ad](#)]
- Job Openings at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. **Deadline for Applications: June 30, 2022** [[See the ad](#)]
- Associate Professor in Criminology and/or Sociology (Teaching and Curriculum Leadership), University of Nottingham, UK. **Deadline for Applications: June 16, 2022.** [[See the ad](#)]
- Assistant/Associate Professor, Troy University, Troy, AL. **Deadline for Applications: Open until filled** [[See the ad](#)]
- Instructor/Assistant Professor–Sociology/Anthropology–Michael J. Grant Campus, Suffolk County Community College, Selden, NY. **Deadline for Applications: June 24, 2022** [[See the ad](#)]