

Documentary and Multimodal Ethnographic Approaches

Course title	Documentary and Multimodal Ethnographic Approaches (NIA Summer School)
Credits	6 ECTS
Time period	1 – 14 July 2026
Target audience	students in social/political sciences & humanities
Level	last year BA, Master and PhD
Language of instruction	English
Mode of instruction	in person seminars and ethnographic research
Method of assessment	project based group work, film/multimodal work of 10min, research and ethnographic report (2000 words)
Entry requirements	academic qualification, personal statement
Course coordinator	Dr. Tryfon Bampilis tryfonb@nia.gr

The Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) in cooperation with staff from the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology of the University of Leiden and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam organize this intensive summer school

About the course

Specializations and courses on audiovisual and multimodal methodologies have become widely available in recent years. This process has transformed cultural anthropology and its relationship with other disciplines, forms of expression, visual and fine arts. The students will be offered the opportunity to learn various available methodological tools and up-to-date theoretical approaches. As this course is a research-based school, students will also produce small collaborative projects that will be presented at the Netherlands Institute at Athens. Possible assignments include projects such as documentary films, photo-essays, podcasts, media-walks, installations etc.

The (relative) democratization of media, the possibility of producing and disseminating anthropological content in digital forms, the shift to more collaborative models of qualitative research, the active involvement of research participants in data production, the development of new audiences, and the use of new media in research reflect the radical transformations that have taken place in the methodological heritage of visual anthropology.



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This course is the ideal starting point for all students who would like to combine anthropological fieldwork with audio and video making, multimodal methodology and ethnographic documentary. Our aim is to provide a basis for new and developing ethnographic skills, introduce our students to Athenian cityscapes to develop new projects and offer all the support, supervision and knowledge needed.

By bringing together experienced academic staff and long-standing university collaborations, the summer school, carries on the tradition of the NIA in promoting cutting-edge scholarship and building a student community for those who would like to continue their studies in these fields. Finally, the students are offered free accommodation in the historic neoclassical building of the institute next to the Acropolis of Athens, in one of the most vibrant parts of the city, in the areas of Koukaki/Plaka.

Instructors

Confirmed speakers include:

- ◆ Prof. Dimitrios Dalakoglou (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- ◆ Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (anthropologist, NIA)
- ◆ Dr. Nicholas Karachalis (urban studies, NIA/University of Aegean)
- ◆ Drs. Metje Postma (anthropologist/film director, University of Leiden)
- ◆ Maro Anastopoulou (film director)
- ◆ Dr. Fotini Gouseti (artist/anthropologist, University of Thessaly)
- ◆ Giorgos Harisis (camera and editing instructor)



Structure of the course

From 1 July until 14 July 2026 the seminars will run daily, at the NIA in Athens and will combine field research (film-multimodal production) in specific neighborhoods of Athens and in selected locations. The seminar will focus on a general theoretical context as well as on contemporary approaches to field research in an urban setting with an overview of the current situation in Greece. Most days there are two or three intensive sessions of two hours each. **During the course the students will be able to conduct their ethnographic research and record with mobiles or cameras their topics of interest in small groups of three.** The equipment is provided by the institute. In preparation to the seminar, all students are expected to read the bibliography before arrival to Greece.

Intended learning outcomes

Upon completing this course students will be able to use audiovisual and multimodal methods in diverse settings, will have the basic skills to complete a short ethnographic documentary or another multimodal project and will gain the experience of conducting ethnographic research in an urban setting. Participants will develop a critical awareness of the relationship between research and methodology. They will also gain an overview of contemporary theoretical approaches to multimodality and history of cinematic language and will develop some basic video editing techniques. Students will also learn some basic principles of collaborative and ethically informed research as well as how to present their findings to a wider public.

Method

During the seminar the students will conduct an audiovisual or multimodal ethnographic field research. The “ethnographic project” might have a focus on life stories, specific neighborhoods or social networks but it can expand to wider processes such as social change, religion and migration. The students will be free to choose in consultation with the staff their topics and they will be able to come in contact with various people to discuss, interview and materialize their research under the supervision of the school. Students will record, collect and organize their material, which will be put together under the guidance of experienced staff in order to be presented at the closing day of our school. A short ethnographic documentary (approximately 10 minutes) will be the expected result of each group project. **All project rights will be managed by the Netherlands Institute at Athens** (the producer) and future use of any student film requires prior written permissions by the Institute.

Audiovisual equipment will be provided by NIA but students are encouraged to bring their own mobiles, cameras and laptops to use them during the course. **Each group will be supervised and guided through their research, but the progress of each project and the incorporation of the received feedback is the responsibility of students.** Successful projects can be presented in public screenings.

Course requirements, language and accreditation

The course is available to students at last year BA, Master and PhD from all universities globally. All lectures will be given in English. Students are required to read the bibliography before arrival and participate actively in all the lectures during the courses. **All seminars and research are obligatory.**

The performance during courses and the final product will be evaluated by the staff. The proposed credits of the organizing committee for the summer school are 6 ECTS including a written essay of 2.000 words. Students will be receiving the Netherlands Institute at Athens Certificate for their participation in the course.

Course period, dates and times

The course consists of 13 intensive days with daily lectures and field research. Arrival and a welcome meeting will take place on the 1st of July, the first course day will be on the 2nd, the last on the 13th, and the presentations of students will take place on the evening of the 14th of July.

Participation – application

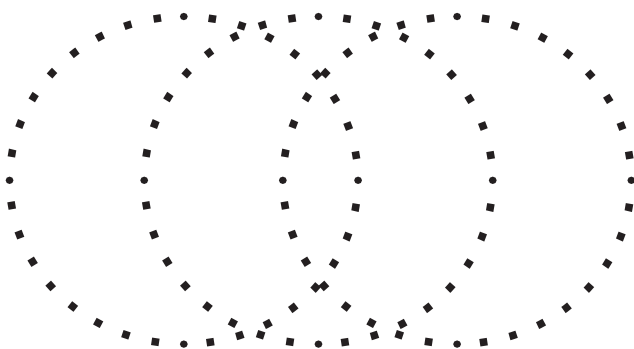
Students can apply online through our website www.nia.gr until **8 May 2026** and successful applicants will be notified by **15 May 2026**. In case your application has been successful, the course fees will have to be paid by **Wednesday 20 May 2026**. Please be aware that a cancellation of your participation is possible up until two weeks before the beginning of the course with a 50% refund of the course fees. After that date no refunds can be made. The number of participating students is limited (max. 14 students), so we encourage early registration. Selecting criteria will apply. **Participation in the seminars is obligatory for all registered students and allowing only two absences.** Those who are not able to follow up the set rules will not be able to receive the NIA certificate of participation.

Costs

The total cost of the course is 850€ for all E.U. students **including accommodation** and 475€ for Greek or other EU students who do not need accommodation. For students who study in a non-EU University the cost is 1150€ including accommodation and 850€ without accommodation. Students are expected to cover their airplane return ticket from the Netherlands or country of origin to Athens and their meals and incidentals. Non-EU students who might need a VISA to enter Greece are fully responsible for arranging all proper documentation long in advance and the institute has no accountability if they fail to do so.

Accommodation

During the course the students will be staying at our guest rooms in the historic building of the NIA. Students will be sharing their rooms. The institute will publish contact details as soon as students are accepted. For more information regarding accommodation please contact the NIA senior administrator Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr or nia@nia.gr



Transport to the institute

Upon arrival in Athens, you can commute to NIA by metro, taxi or bus. The institute is located next to the Acropolis metro station, in the center of the city, in the areas of Plaka and Koukaki. For exact information on how to get to NIA please contact the senior administrator Mrs Emmy Makri at emakri@nia.gr

For more information regarding the course, please contact the director of the social and political sciences program dr. Tryfon Bampilis, Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA) Tel + 30 210 9210760; email: tryfonb@nia.gr in cc with nia@nia.gr

Organizing committee

Prof. Dimitrios Dalakoglou (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Dr. Tryfon Bampilis (course coordinator NIA)

Drs. Metje Postma (University of Leiden)

Maro Anastopoulou (film director)

Dr. Fotini Gouseti (artist/anthropologist)

Obligatory readings

Cristina Grasseni, Bart Barendregt, Eric de Maaker, Federico De Musso, Andrew Littlejohn, Marianne Maeckelbergh, Metje Postma, Mark Westmoreland. 2021. Audiovisual and Digital Ethnography at Leiden. Routledge.

Collins, Samuel Gerald and Matthew Durington. 2014. Networked Anthropology. A Primer for Ethnographers. London and New York: Routledge.