

## **ANT363 - Qualitative Research Methods**

Literature Search - Part I

Due in-class **Thursday October 4**

Your assignment is to begin locating and reading scholarly literature relevant to the topic of your research proposal. I would recommend following either or both of the two steps suggested by Bernard on pp. 96-97: consult an expert in a field related to your topic (if one is available), and/or look for literature reviews related to the topic in the *Annual Reviews* series. For this preliminary literature search, you should 1) aim to identify at least 15 sources that are potentially relevant to your topic, and 2) write a summary of the results of three that seem particularly useful.

You should provide these, alphabetized by author, in the format specified in the American Anthropological Association's Style Guide (see separate handout).

As you survey the literature (when I say survey....I don't expect you to read every single word of every single article or book at this point, but I want you to look over the abstracts, introductions, conclusions, etc. to get a picture of the main findings), consider the implications of the material for your proposed research. Some questions you might consider include the following. Have some of the questions you posed in your problem statement been answered adequately in the literature? Are there gaps or unexplored areas where your research could contribute? Do the authors describe methodological challenges or obstacles that might also impede your proposed research? Is there a study which could serve as a model for your research, that you might be able to replicate or modify? Hopefully, getting into the literature will help you narrow, refine and sharpen your topic.

At the end of your literature review, write a few paragraphs on the implications of your literature review (to date) on your proposed research.