

Ethnographic Research in Political Science/ Sociology: Possibilities of Contribution and Ethical Challenges.

Prof. Patricia García-Espín
Universidad de Granada



UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA | Departamento de Sociología



Jane J. Mansbridge

**BEYOND
ADVERSARY
DEMOCRACY**

With a revised Preface

Las articulaciones de la participación

Una etnografía de la democracia directa en concejos abiertos vascos

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Patricia García-Espín

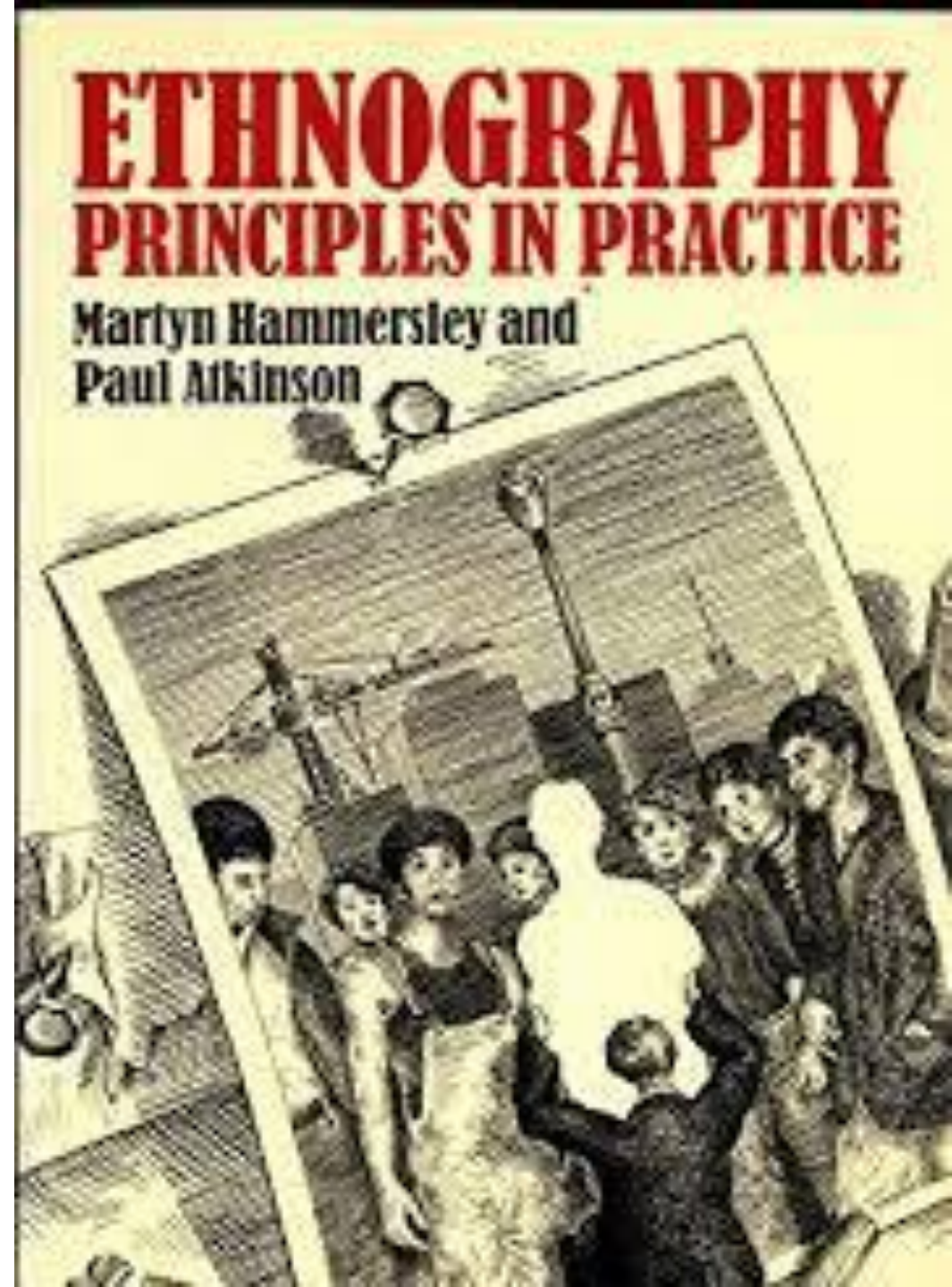
CIS

Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas

- García Espín, Patricia. "Etnografía y Ciencia Política: la excepcionalidad del caso español." *Política y sociedad* 54.1 (2017): 255.
- García-Espín, Patricia. "'Nothing about politics': The political scope in rural participatory governance, a case-study in the Basque Country, Spain." *Journal of Deliberative Democracy* 13.2 (2017).
- García-Espín, Patricia. "Class inequalities and participatory democracy: assessing the impact of social inclusion tools in (rural) citizens' assemblies". *Political Studies Review* (forthcoming).

1. What's ethnography?

- Maximum **deepness**, one or few cases
- **Observation** and immersion (longer periods)
- Main strengths:
 - Observation of non-verbal practice
 - Everyday discourses and relationships



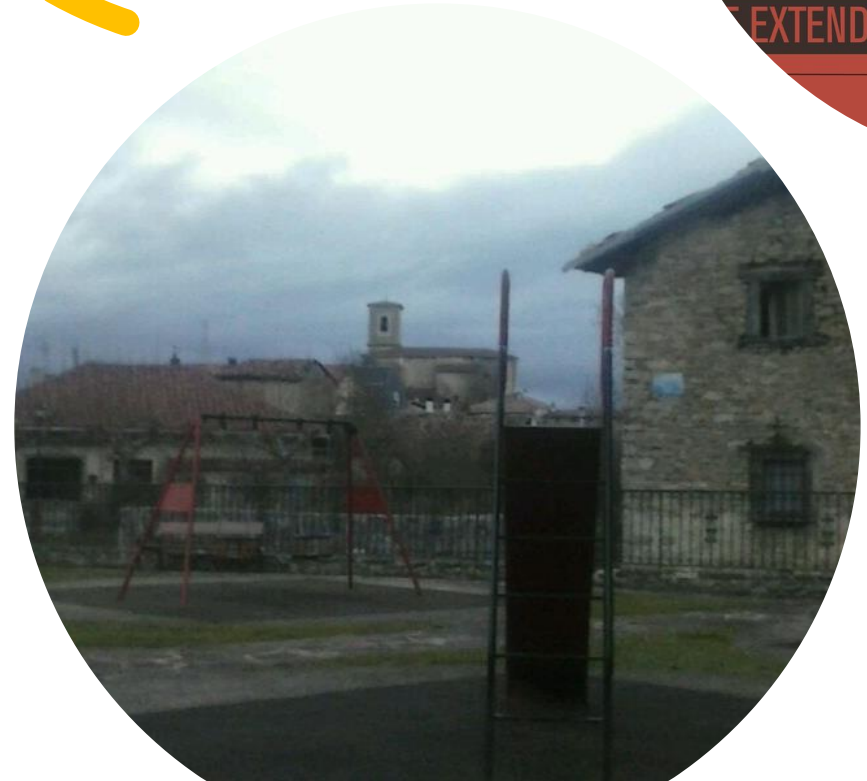
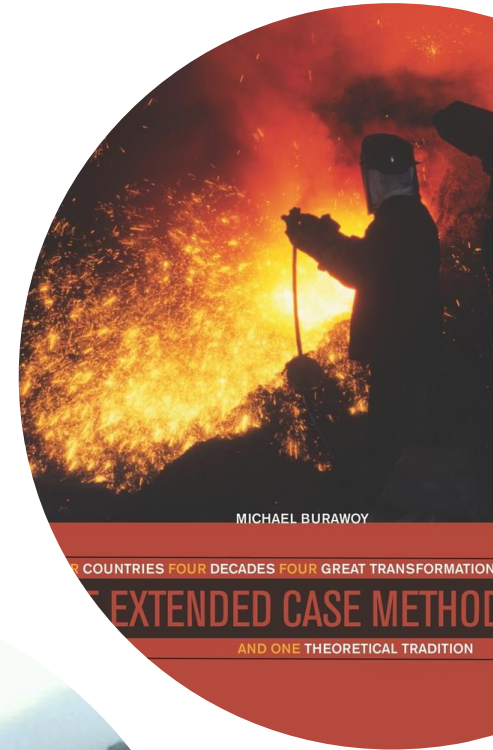
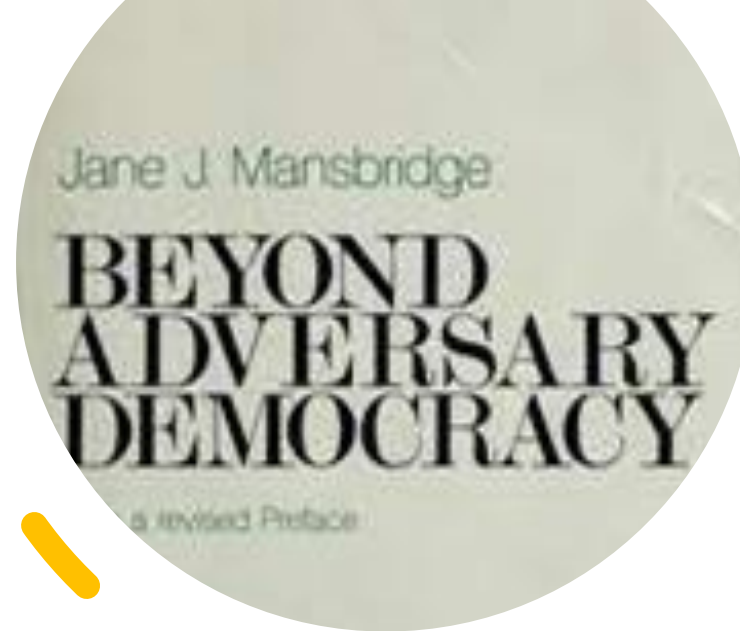
2. Challenges and difficulties

- The **uniqueness** of the case
- **Reflexivity**
- Delivery of **results**
- **Ethical** issues



2.1 The uniqueness of the case

- Few cases/one case
- **Deviant** cases
- “Extended case method” (Burawoy, 1998)



2.2 The labor of **reflexivity**

- “**Objectivation**” (Bourdieu, 1996)
- Researcher’s role on fieldwork
- Assumptions and prenotions regarding the study object

PIERRE BOURDIEU

In Other Words

Essays Towards
a Reflexive Sociology

2.3 Delivery of results

- Devolution of findings
- Different forms (discussing reports with interviewees, presenting findings to participants)
- **Feedback**
- **Validity** of interpretations



2.4 Ethical issues

- Ethical committees, information and **consent**
- “One size fits all” (Russell and Barley, 2020)
- Ethics as a **continuous process...**
- Impact and **damage** on participants



3. Conclusions

- Usefulness of ethnographic observation:
a) non-verbal behavior; b) everyday relationships
- Challenges to solve...
 - Uniqueness- context dependency
 - Reflexivity
 - Delivery of results
 - Ethics

