Fieldwork Research Workshop
for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Day</th>
<th>Second Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introductions</td>
<td>• Review and specify what is to be documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Philosophical orientation</td>
<td>• Documentation objectives and researcher’s role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of conceptual framework for the research</td>
<td>• Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discussion of pertinent projects and research related to the conceptual framework</td>
<td>• Research methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop fieldwork research plan</td>
<td>• Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review research plan with dates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the Festival?

A museum without walls
The National Mall
Different Genres

Music and Dance

Las Américas-Un mundo musical

Nuestra Música: Latino Chicago
Art

Indonesia: Forest, Field and Sea

U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Oman: Desert, Oasis and Sea
Indonesia: Forest, Field and Sea

Land in Native American Cultures

Crafts
Vernacular Architecture
Carnivals and processions

The Bahamas
Iowa - Community Style

Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Culture in the Americas

Mekong River: Connecting Cultures

Occupations, sports, and foodways
...is part of the community.

...is contemporary.
Folklórico Dance

What are we not...

Traditional culture is lived and not reconstructed.
Example: Indonesia

Facts:

- Indonesia has about 300 ethnic groups, over 1000 islands distributed along a 3000 mile stretch of ocean, and a population of about 240 million inhabitants.

- It has one of the largest tropical forest areas in the world.

- The inhabitants have a profound knowledge of their environment.
How to represent Indonesia?

- Based on its inhabitants?
- Based on religious, racial and/or ethnic diversity?
- Based on regions?
- What is Indonesia? What does it mean to be Indonesian?
Title: Indonesia: Unity and Diversity

Message: Indonesia is resources... diversity... environmental knowledge ...subsistence... identity...

Theme/s: Forest, field y sea

Topics/Components/Presentations: fishing, ceremonial dance, music, foodways, batiks, longhouses and their contruction, the Pendopo, boat building, creation myth, Dance of the Reyog Pnorogo, Danza of the Mask....
Themes ↔ Topics

Temas: Forest, Field, and Sea

Topics: Symbolic Structures

- Forest ↔ Longhouses (East of Kalimantan)
- Field ↔ Pendopo (East of Java)
- Sea ↔ Boat building (South of Sulawesi)
How was Dayak culture represented in the context of the longhouses?

- The building process
- Collaborative community work
- Rituals and dances
- Craft and foodways
Presentations: The Pendopo

How does the Pendopo (community center) integrate rural traditions with artistic expressions.

- Kerek batik
- Foodways
- Dance of the Reyog Ponorogo
- Dance of the Mask

Dance of the Reyog Ponorogo

Kerek batik
Presentations: Boat Building

“The sea unites, land divides”

- Boat building
- “Sawerigading” creation myth
- Oral Tradition
- Rituals and dance
- Traditional knowledge practices

Boat building ritual

Boat building at the Festival
Title:

[The Nature of Colombian Culture]

Message

Themes

Topics/Components/Presentations
Colombia is a country characterized by...

- pluriculturality
- environmental diversity
- identity/multivocality
- interaction of culture and nature interaction
- subsistence

- use & management of ecosystems
- conservation of human and natural resources
- More than regions
- Distinctive flora and fauna
- ...

Nature and culture: Ecosystems

- What constitutes an ecosystem?
- How does it work as a theme?
- How does it reflect the message; cultural traditions?
Themes – Ecosystems

- Momposino Depression
- Pacific Rainforest
- Southeastern Plains
- Andean Highlands
- Amazonian Rainforest
- Coffee Triangle
- Urban Areas
Organizing Centers

- The maloca
- The “salón de la guadua”
Relation of nature to culture (fauna-flora)

- On myths and categories
- Interactions
- Songs celebrating life and feasts of abundance
- Images and memory
- On sustainability

Relation of nature to culture (water)

- Mohanes, Madremontes and Mandingas
- “Me contaron los abuelos que hace tiempo...”
Components and representations

Pacific Rainforest

- San Pacho procession
- *pusandao* (use of plantain as ingredient or sausage from Chocó)
- construction of the marimba
- Embera body painting
- Guerrere basketmaking
- songs from the south
- ...

- Message
- Contexts
- Genres
- Expressions in the communities
- Relationship to other ecosystems
Andean Highlands

- Music -- *carranga* / Primavera duo; (women’s trio from Santa Rosa de Viterbo; band from Paipa)
- Corn and its processing -- making *arepas*
- Games -- *la rana* / *el tejo*
- Textiles (in wool and *fique*)
- Pottery

- Message
- Contexts
- Genres
- Expressions in the communities
- Relationship to other ecosystems
• Carnival dancers and masqueraders (coyongos or goleros)
• candy / cassava / icotea / squash
  calambucos / fish / rice with coconut
• flute (caña de millo) and drummaking
• maskmaking
• caña flecha
• river songs and baile cantao

• Message
• Contexts
• Genres
• Expressions in the communities
• Relationship to other ecosystems
• *llanero* music group
• *mamona* roast
• leather crafts
• ranching culture
• blacksmithing
• ropemaking

• Message
• Contexts
• Genres
• Expressions in the communities
• Relationship to other ecosystems
• the *maloca*
• processing cassava (*budare*, grater, small stool)
• varieties of hot pepper
• games -- *trompo zumbador*
• feather wreath-making
• *palo de sangre* crafts
• *chagra* – theater piece directed by Moyano
• the *chiruro*
• Dance of the Doll

• Message
• Contexts
• Genres
• Expressions in the communities
• Relationship to other ecosistems
• salon de la guadua
• guadua and leather crafts
• growing and processing coffee
• coffee as ingredient

• Message
• Contexts
• Genres
• Expressions in the communities
• Relationship to other ecosystems
• Urban music
• Salsa
• Street food vendors
• Traditional or industrial crafts
• Street games

• Message
• Contexts
• Genres
• Expressions in the communities
• Relationship to other ecosystems
Working the themes into the site
Second Day

Fieldwork Research Workshop

For the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
### Second Day

- Review and refine what will be documented
- Documentation objectives and the role of the researcher
- Procedures
- Research Methods
- Forms
- Work plan review with dates
Two Phases

Research

Production
The role of the presenter

- Identification and selection of traditions and cultural practitioners
- Identification and selection of participants for the Festival and traditions they represent
- Development of presentation formats and interpretive materials for the selected participants and traditions
- Development of thematic concepts, design, and staging logistics
Methods

- Recorded informal interviews
- Notes on observations, including contexts and processes
- Photos
- Drawings
- Video
- Archival research
...products

...knowledge and skills

...environments, contexts and processes
Research used for production

Translate the original context of the Mercado Juárez...

...into a Festival stage.
Haitian *honfour* design based on researcher’s drawings
The longhouse veranda as a stage
The plaza integrating dance and crafts
Environmental installation for presentations
The store front for thematic conversations ...

... or the house entrance for discussions on dress.

Contexts for narrative sessions
Informal spaces for interaction
Three different Caribbean cultural groups present on the same stage.
Marking the entrance to a program
Presentation Requirements

Materials

Tools

Loom
Ingredients
Archery

Archery is Bhutan’s national sport and dates to the time when bows and arrows, and the country’s rugged geography, were the principal means of defense. Traditional Bhutanese bows and arrows are made from locally available bamboo. In recent years, more powerful factory-made compound bows have been introduced into some archery competitions. Small wooden targets are placed at either end of regulation-sized archery fields—approximately 120 yards for traditional bows and 140 yards for compound bows.

Archery contests are very colorful community events that feature highly skilled competitors and dancing and singing cheerleaders, who pose for all the opposing team’s photographs. Virtually every village in Bhutan has an archery field nearby, and the sport forms a part of regular weekend recreation for many people. It is also an important part of all major festivals in the kingdom.
Bhutan is an agrarian society where most people eat what they grow. Rural Bhutanese continue to process virtually everything they cook, including oils from a variety of seeds.

Most Bhutanese are not vegetarian, but they do not slaughter the animals they eat, so they import most of their meat. ‘Tea, traditionally churned with salt and butter, is offered as a sign of hospitality. Many Bhutanese households also make their own aru, a distilled drink with a 20 percent alcohol content made from a variety of grains.

Nearly all meals are prepared around rice. Buckwheat, made into pancakes or noodles, is another important staple. Dishes using soft-ripened cheese (tsho) in combination with mushrooms, dried seaweed, tomatoes, spinach, potatoes, meat, and eggs are characteristic of Bhutanese cooking. Chilies are the defining ingredient in Bhutanese cuisine; chiles and cheese is Bhutan’s national dish, ema datshi.
Good

Not very good
Photo Examples

Good

Not very good