

Workshop on the Ethnography of Documents
17 June 2014
Exercise Directions

Documents can be found at:

<http://disi.unitn.it/~dandrea/workshop/>

Each team has two small sets of documents to work with and brief descriptions of what they are.

To get you thinking, work through and answer some or all of these questions (not all will be applicable):

- What are the documents “evidence” of?
- What assumptions are embedded in the documents?
- What social relations are called upon to manufacture these documents?
- What rules of information selection, order, and viewpoint/voice are privileged in the documents?
- How are these rules applied in practice (in other words, how would you study the construction and role of the documents you have)?
- What else would you need to know in order to make ethnographic use of these documents (ex: what other documents, people, organizational structures, social networks, etc)
- What methods would help you verify/question/critique whether your understanding of these documents is correct?

As a team, examine them and be prepared to report back to the class on the following:

- What kind of research questions(s) could you design around these documents?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using these documents to answer your question(s)?