



## **Public Lecture**

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**Tuesday, 17 November 2020**

**Do We Still Need to Talk About Online Methods Now That Everything Is Online?**

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**Prof. Christine Hine, University of Surrey**

**Discussant: Laure Sandoz, University of Neuchâtel**

13:30 – 14:15 h

The Public Lecture will be held online.

We ask you to register here ([https://neuchatel.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aY8GkmlmWfap3Pn](https://neuchatel.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aY8GkmlmWfap3Pn)) no later than 15 November to receive the Webex link.

### Abstract

In this talk, I will explore the development of online and virtual research methods in social science with the goal of gaining some perspective on where we have come to and what challenges currently confront the research community. As scholars who focus on the nuances of lived social experience, qualitative sociologists and anthropologists have been quite reasonably concerned about the abilities of online research methods to fully encompass the aspects of human experience that interest us. Various marked categories of “online” “virtual” “cyber” and “net” methodologies are the result. In recent months, however, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen a massive shift online across swathes of human activity and breaching of taboo after taboo as actions that we only thought could be conducted face-to-face suddenly have come to seem possible, acceptable and even in some cases better online. In this context, I will be exploring where online methods for fieldwork currently stand and highlighting some of the challenges that still face practitioners of online methods, around the definition of fieldsites, the representation of diverse populations and the accountability of our research methods to disciplinary frameworks.

### Curriculum Vitae

Christine Hine is a sociologist of science and technology who has a particular focus on the role played by new technologies in the knowledge construction process. She has a major interest in the development of ethnography in technical settings and in "virtual methods" (the use of the Internet in social research). In particular, she has developed mobile and connective approaches to ethnography that combine online and offline social contexts. In common with many scholars in Science and Technology Studies, Christine has a scientific and technical background herself. She studied Botany (BA, Oxon) and Biological Computation (MSc, York) and completed her DPhil in the Biology Department at York before making a transition to Sociology of Science and Technology

### Selected Publications

- Hine, C. (2019). *Strategies for Reflexive Ethnography in the Smart Home: Autoethnography of Silence and Emotion*. Sociology SAGE.
- Hine, C. (2015). *Ethnography for the Internet: Embedded, Embodied and Everyday*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Hine, C., Snee, H., Morey, Y., Roberts, S., and Watson, H. (2015). *Digital Methods for Social Science: An Interdisciplinary Guide to Research Innovation*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hine, C. (2013). *Virtual Research Methods (Four Volume Set)*. Sage Publications Limited.
- Hine, C. (2012). *The Internet. Understanding Qualitative Research*. Oxford University Press