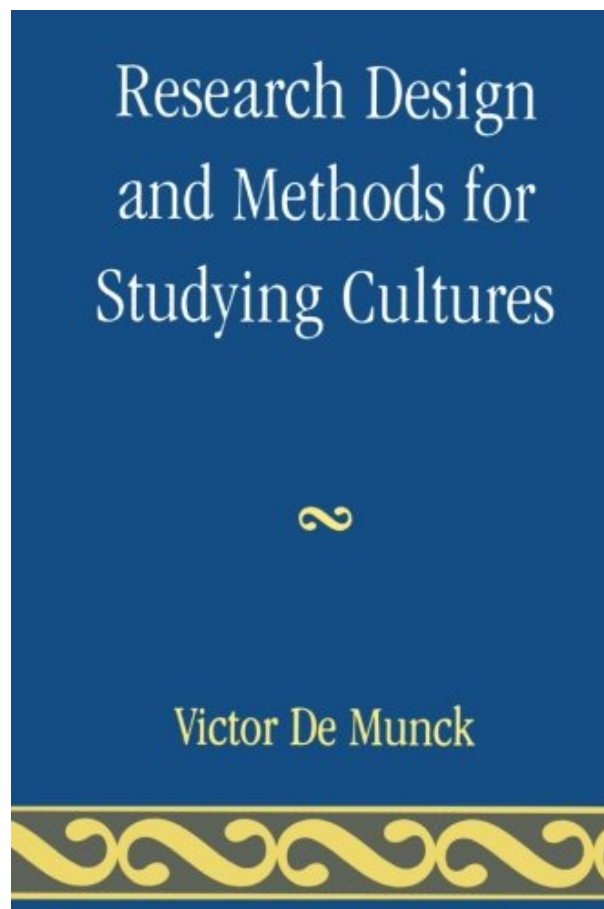


RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS FOR STUDYING CULTURES BY VICTOR DE MUNCK



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Review

Professor de Munck is one of the brightest and most creative researchers and teachers in today's anthropology. Research Design and Methods for Studying Cultures brings a fresh and human perspective to the problem of designing anthropological field projects that are at once sensitively human and rigorously empirical. Students embarking on anthropological research will find this a stimulating and informative source and guide. (David Kronenfeld, University of California)

De Munck makes a clear and compelling argument against the factorial framework and for an integrated, holistic approach. He demonstrates, with straightforward writing and plenty of concrete examples, a pragmatic model for research design that takes into account the contingent nature of fieldwork and the unruly character of culture. Better yet, he goes well beyond describing this model: he shows the reader how to apply it. (E. J. Sobo, San Diego State University)

Research Design and Methods for Studying Cultures takes an integrated approach that stresses the relationship between research design and methods and illustrates clearly how methods build upon one another in the process of pursuing research questions. De Munck allows novice researchers to understand that cultural anthropology fieldwork is a complicated and messy endeavor, and he does this in an accessible and entertaining way. (James D. Armstrong, SUNY Plattsburgh)

De Munck takes a holistic view of cultural anthropology research and colors technical descriptions with insights and interesting examples gained from his own field research in Lithuania, Russia, and the United States. . . . Helpful, basic information on literature searching, grant writing, methodology, and ethics is included. . . . Thorough, yet not exhaustive, this practical guide to ethnology research design and methods would be especially useful to graduate students planning their first fieldwork experience. . . . Recommended. (CHOICE, December 2009)

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This is a practical guidebook for conducting field research on cultural issues. The first third of the book describes how one constructs a research design. The rest of the book describes different methods that the author used during his own NSF sponsored cross-cultural research on romantic love in Russia, Lithuania, and the U.S. The methods described are: freelists, pile or Q sorts questionnaires, consensus analysis, interviews, process analysis, and participant observation. Participant observation is intentionally left to the end, to emphasize that it is the most difficult of all methods and also to show that participant observations is a more powerful tool when preceded by more structured and systematic methods of data collection. The strengths and weaknesses of these methods are discussed as are the 'pitfalls' that occur when a research design is implemented in the field. The book is useful for anyone who is preparing to conduct fieldwork on socio-cultural issues.

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Book = Lecture

By ROb

This book is written as if you were sitting in his class listening to a lecture. Most of what he says in class is the exact same. It can be simple and confusing at times but I think that is just the material. He tends to ramble which appears in his book to some extent. It is not a step by step book but rather one designed to make you able to create your method.

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By Madalina A.

A very down-to-earth approach to doing cross-cultural research from scratch as it were. Language is a bit more casual than I would prefer (the author seems to ignore that "data" is a plural noun, and as such he writes "data is" throughout the book). That becomes tiring and takes away from the overall quality of reasoning of the book.

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