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Medical Ethnography--Making Meaning that Matters (What it is and What it is Not)

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The Beauty of Ethnography

Presented by:

Melinda Hermanns, PhD, RN, BC, CNE

Ethnography is...

- Study of people and their behaviors



The study of "other" or "primitive" or "exotic" cultures



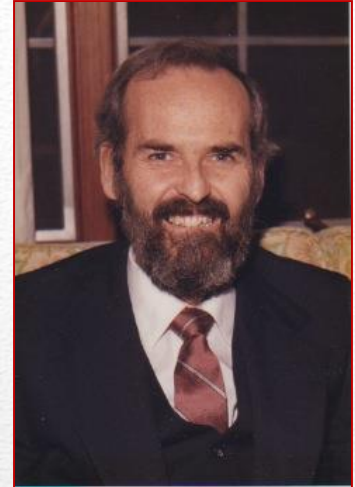
Myth

- Humans: past and present
- Culture
- Acquired knowledge: interpret experiences and generate social experience
- Ethos (often tacit)
- Their point of view – example of groups:
 - community, village, neighborhood,
 - organization, a work unit, network or group

...that shares a common experience (*i.e.*, living with a chronic condition or medical experience)

What is Ethnography

Spradley, 1979



- Culture is the way people make meaning of their experiences and operate in everyday life.
- Collective cognitive constructions that shape beliefs/attitudes and underlie behavior

Ethnography

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Participant Observation

Role	Description	Use
Observer	Researcher is physically and psychological absent	Inappropriate for ethnographic study; may be used for other forms of qualitative research
Participant-Observer	Researcher creates role for the purpose of study	Typical role in ethnographic study
Interviewer	Establishes role with each person interviewed	Primarily used in ethnographic interview studies

Source: McMillan and Schumacher

- On-site observation
- Prolonged data collection
- Participants' constructed realities
- Corroboration of field observations
- Salient observations
- Recording observations
- The process is like a funnel



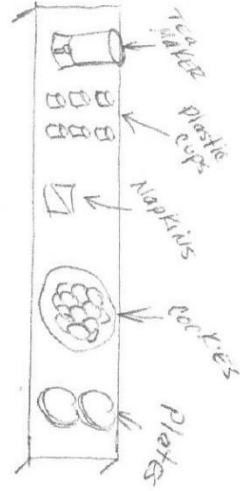
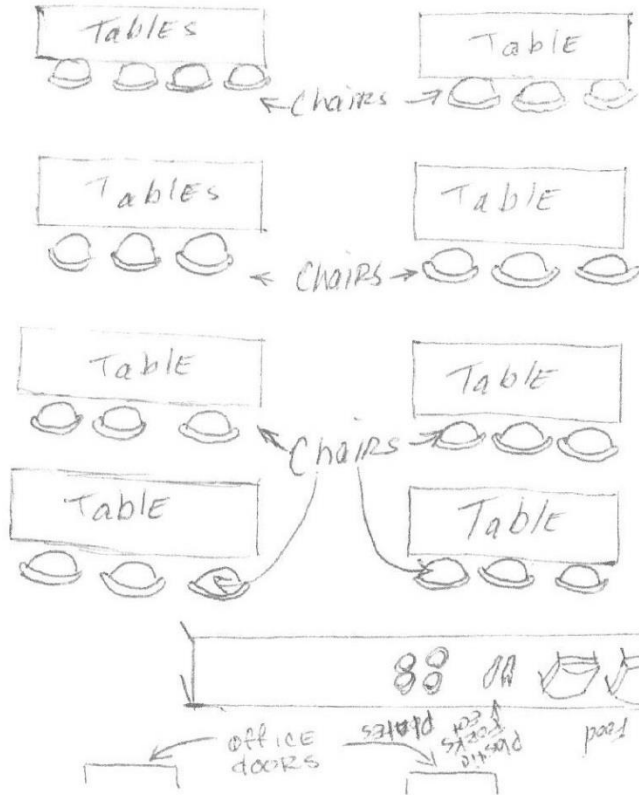
Participant Observation

Podium

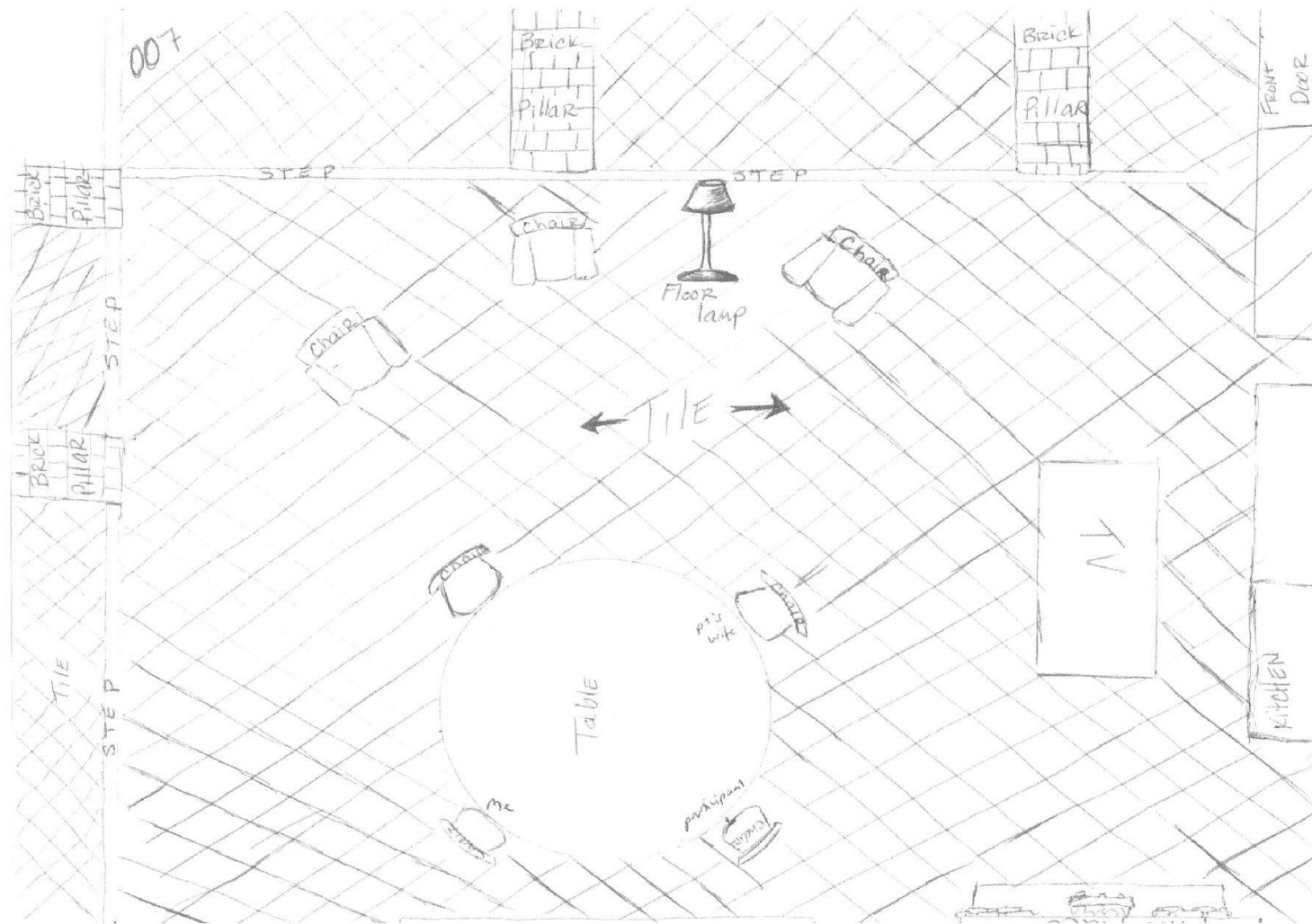
SCREEN

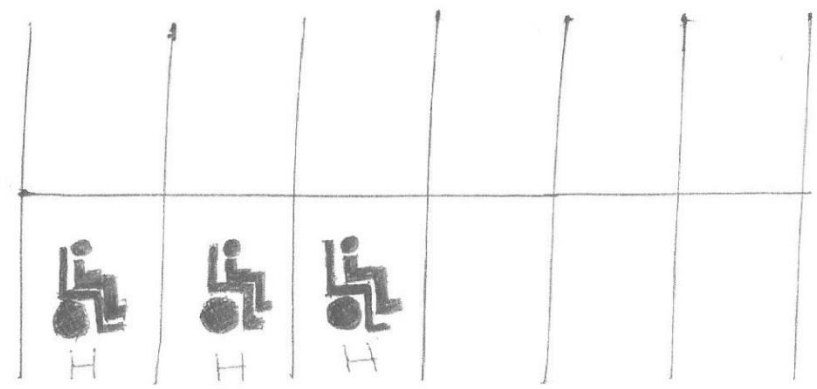
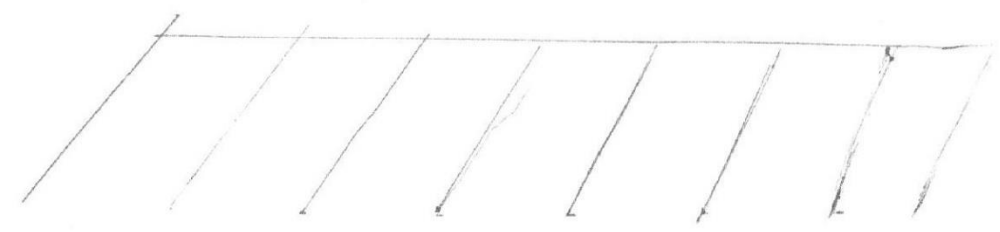
RESTROOM
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Doorway

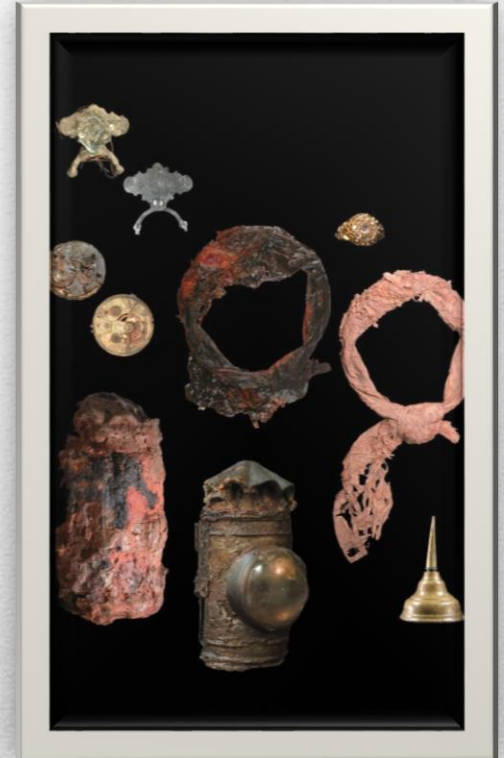


Parliamentarians of East Texas
Support Group





Artifacts



Old Man Time

I was young once in my life
Full of wonder about tomorrow
Will I marry and have children
What's he doing at this very moment?

I've had my joys
I have seen good, bad, trouble and strife
Places to go, things to do, many a dream
Pimping and styling Keeping up with order

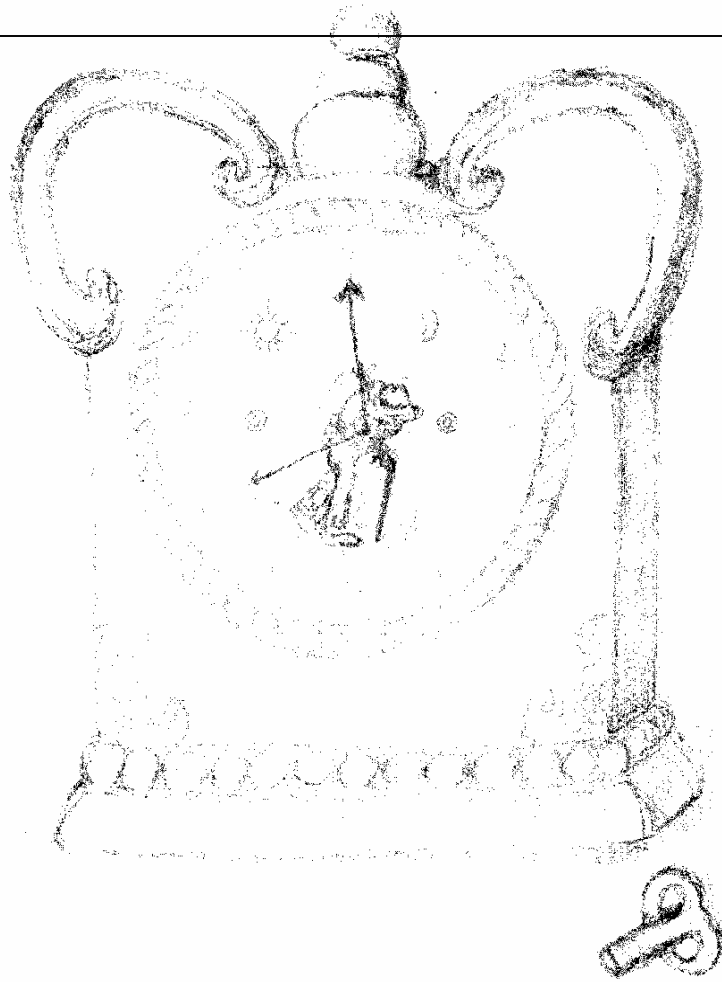
Now that's an older and married
Where he took you?

My child is grown and gone as he was
Will grandchildren who make over they
Will longer that only children make

My young was cut short as my getting my life
A storm called cancer on that dreary day
I managed to go through the hellish walk
Thought only for a little while, then I was
back on my journey of life.

MANY years have come and gone
Now I resemble Old MAN Time in his clock
No choice but to march on

“Old Man in the Clock”





Handwritten text, possibly a name or label, written in a cursive script below the sketch.



Handwritten text, possibly a name or label, written in a cursive script below the sketch.





Thank You!



Questions?

Comments?

