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Digital Ethnography as a New Trend of Ethnographic Studies in Education in Brazil

Digital Technology and Ethnographic Research are subjects that reflect the demands of education in the postmodern age. Research agencies, researchers, teachers and students emphasize both subjects in order to meet these demands. This presentation illuminates the different nature of these two topics which have been addressed by research in the field of education in Brazil. It will outline the imbrication of the two subjects and introduce the notion of Digital Ethnography as a new trend in ethnographic studies in Education. It discusses, also, how digital technology and critical ethnography carry potential to tackle inequalities and injustices in the Brazilian public education system.

Carmen de Mattos is an Associate Professor of Education at the Department of Applied Studies in Education of the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Brazil since 1998. Her B.A degree is in Pedagogy from the Faculty of Philosophy Saint Dorothy in Brazil, her M.S. is in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development (1987) and Ph.D. (1992) is in Educational Leadership from The University of Pennsylvania, in USA. She has been a visiting scholar at University of Cambridge, in UK (2011), University of Sydney, in Australia (2009) and in Université René Descartes, Sorbonne, in France (2000). Her interests in Pedagogy focus on how ethnographic studies have been examined issues related to: educational processes inequalities, social injustice and school failure in the Basic School System in Brazil. She is coordinator of the Nucleus of Ethnography in Education at UERJ since 2004.