Dr. Sean Ferguson Summary

The Platform for Experimental, Collaborative Ethnography:

The topic of "The Platform for Experimental, Collaborative Ethnography (PECE, pronounced "peace")" caught my attention during Dr. Sean Ferguson's lecture. PECE is a digital research environment that supports new forms of cross-disciplinary collaboration and user engagement in ethnographic research. Critical theoretical commitments to perspectival multiplicity, the process of displacement, and différance, for example, are translated into digital terms by PECE's "design logics." PECE is a useful initiative that tests counter-hegemonic social and linguistic forms while technically supporting collaborative ethnography.

It is also a research project that examines the intellectual, social, and political repercussions of various linguistic ideologies to comprehend the potentials and valences of digital space for knowledge production. In this talk, I'll first discuss how PECE's ethnographic roots in environmental public health studies led to its development as a platform for exposing, testing, and expanding ethnographic approaches and the pedagogical and political potential of ethnographic modes of inquiry. A tour of the PECE and related initiatives, such as The Asthma Files, The Disaster STS Research Network, and associated infrastructures, will also be given. I'll give an overview of PECE's architecture, features, and "design logic" and show you how they operate on multiple platforms. There will be time for questions on how new users working on various projects could use PECE.