## How do I learn about culture?

1. ­­The Naturalistic Question
   1. The Aja of Benin
      1. Aja-gbe: A tonal language, part of the Kwa subgrouping of the Niger-Congo language family
      2. Westward Yoruba (Oyo) migrations (13th century)
      3. The city of Tado in Togo is the ancestral home to Aja, Fon, and Ewe in Ghana, Togo, and Benin.
   2. Stages of Field Research
      1. Selecting a research problem
      2. Formulating a research design
      3. Collecting the data
      4. Analyzing the data
      5. Interpreting the data
      6. Enthnographic Writing
   3. Research Methods
      1. Participant Observation: Total Immersion into a culture
         1. Gather information on *Emic*, or actor-oriented, interpretations of events and their explanations
         2. *Etic* perspective is the observer-oriented view of social practices and events
         3. Learning through living
         4. Joining the daily life of the people to acquire a sense of how things are done, said, and how it all fits together
         5. Your presence changes their behavior simply because they know they’re being watched
      2. Key Informants or Consultants: Local members of the community whom researchers establish personal and professional relationships, and who help the researcher learn and interpret the local culture
         1. “One who shows the way”
      3. Longitudinal Follow-up
         1. Allows the study of cultural change over time
      4. Interview Schedules & Informal conversations
         1. Are an important way of obtaining a wide range of data and to compare and contrast informants’ information
      5. Genealogical surveys (Kinship rules / patterns)
      6. Life Histories and Narratives
         1. People tell their stories of what happened to them
      7. Literature and Archival Research