



From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies That Everyone Can Read (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)

By Kristen Ghodsee



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Ethnography centers on the culture of everyday life. So it is ironic that most scholars who do research on the intimate experiences of ordinary people write their books in a style that those people cannot understand. In recent years, the ethnographic method has spread from its original home in cultural anthropology to fields such as sociology, marketing, media studies, law, criminology, education, cultural studies, history, geography, and political science. Yet, while more and more students and practitioners are learning how to write ethnographies, there is little or no training on how to write ethnographies *well*.

From Notes to Narrative picks up where methodological training leaves off. Kristen Ghodsee, an award-winning ethnographer, addresses common issues that arise in ethnographic writing. Ghodsee works through sentence-level details, such as word choice and structure. She also tackles bigger-picture elements, such as how to incorporate theory and ethnographic details, how to effectively deploy dialogue, and how to avoid distracting elements such as long block quotations and in-text citations. She includes excerpts and examples from model ethnographies. The book concludes with a bibliography of other useful writing guides and nearly one hundred examples of eminently readable ethnographic books.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Ethnography lives and dies in its writing. Wide-eyed graduate students and field-wary scholars alike will find useful tips in *From Notes to Narrative*. There are valuable strategies within these pages, for every stage of the process, and sparkling examples all along the way."

(Jonathan R. Wynn, author of *Music/City: American Festivals and Placemaking in Austin, Nashville, and Newport*)

"In these troubling times, it is the obligation of social scientists to produce knowledge that confronts social and political complexity with a clarity and verve that promotes the common good. Through enviably crisp and concise prose, Ghodsee crafts a variety of chapters, some conceptual ("Choose a Subject You Love," "Integrate Your Theory"), some more practical ("Embrace Dialogue," "Master Good Grammar and Syntax"), that show us how to write compelling ethnographic narratives. What's more, Ghodsee provides well-integrated examples from ethnographic texts that are models of 'how it is done.' Given the challenges of our times, this work should be required reading for all social scientists."

(Paul Stoller, author of *Yaya's Story: The Quest for Well-Being in the World*)

"Thank you, Kristen Ghodsee, for offering an absolutely essential guide to ethnographic writing. I fervently hope *From Notes to Narrative* will be read by every aspiring ethnographic writer, and, most of all, that its lessons will be put into practice. I can't wait to read the books that will come from this book!"

(Ruth Behar, author of *Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys*)

About the Author

Kristen Ghodsee is professor of gender and women's studies at Bowdoin College and a former Guggenheim Fellow in Anthropology and Cultural Studies. She is the author of five books, most recently *Lost In Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism* and *The Left Side of History: World War II and the Unfulfilled Promise of Communism in Eastern Europe*.

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This *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies That Everyone Can Read* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies That Everyone Can Read* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies That Everyone Can Read* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies That Everyone Can Read* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing,

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