

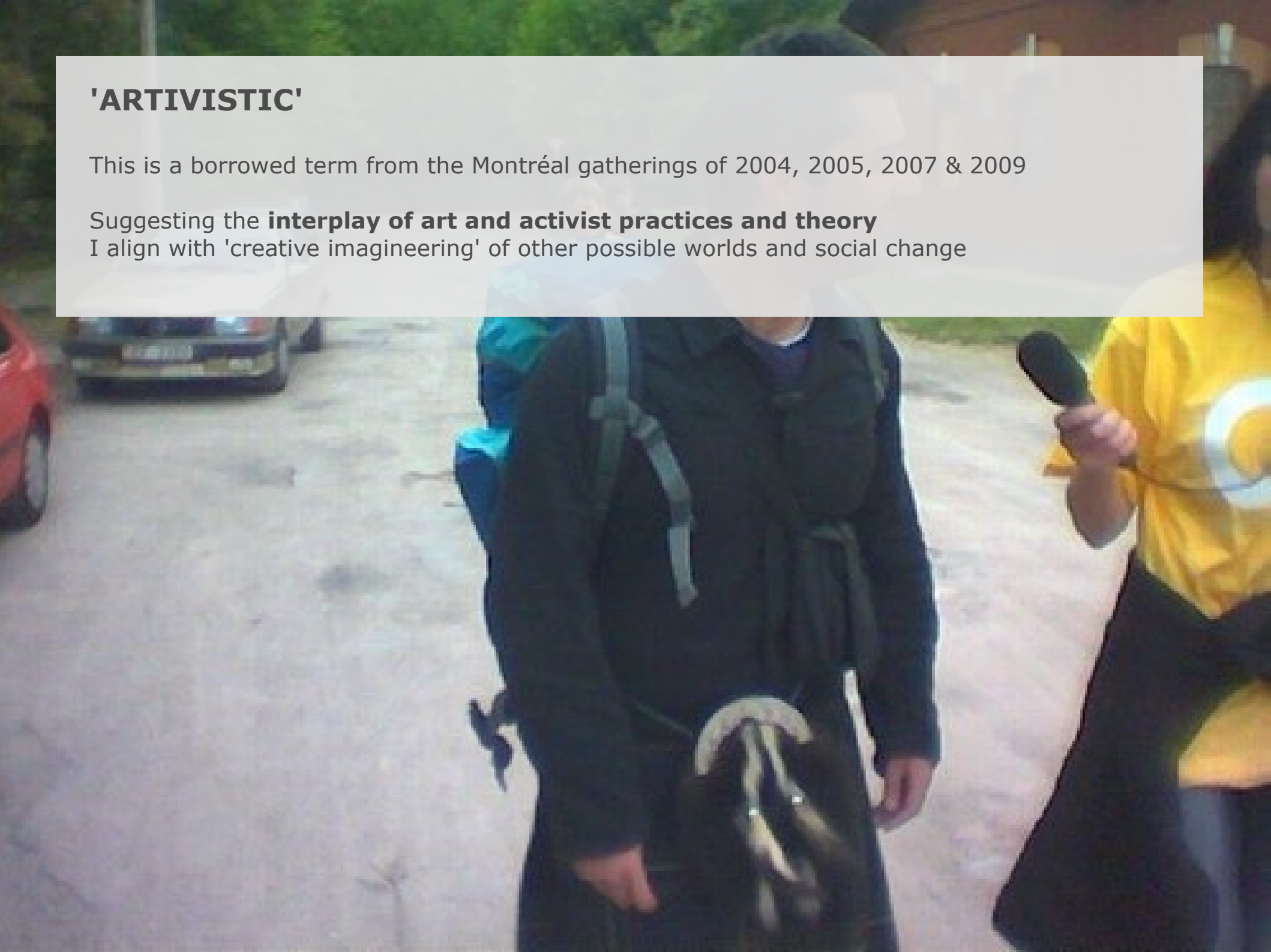
**INTRODUCTION TO 'ARTIVISTIC FIELDWORK'**  
**Storymaking & Fieldnotes**



## 'ARTIVISTIC'

This is a borrowed term from the Montréal gatherings of 2004, 2005, 2007 & 2009

Suggesting the **interplay of art and activist practices and theory**  
I align with 'creative imagineering' of other possible worlds and social change



## 'FIELDWORK'

Fieldwork is the **collection of raw data, in situ**

in contrast to that which is collected in the laboratory or in an controlled-experiment environment.



## **Participant Observation**

Informal interviews

Direct observation

Participation in the life of the group

Collective discussions

Analysis of personal documents produced in the group

Self-analysis

Life-histories



## **Observing Participant**

Living through various roles

Informal collective social conversations

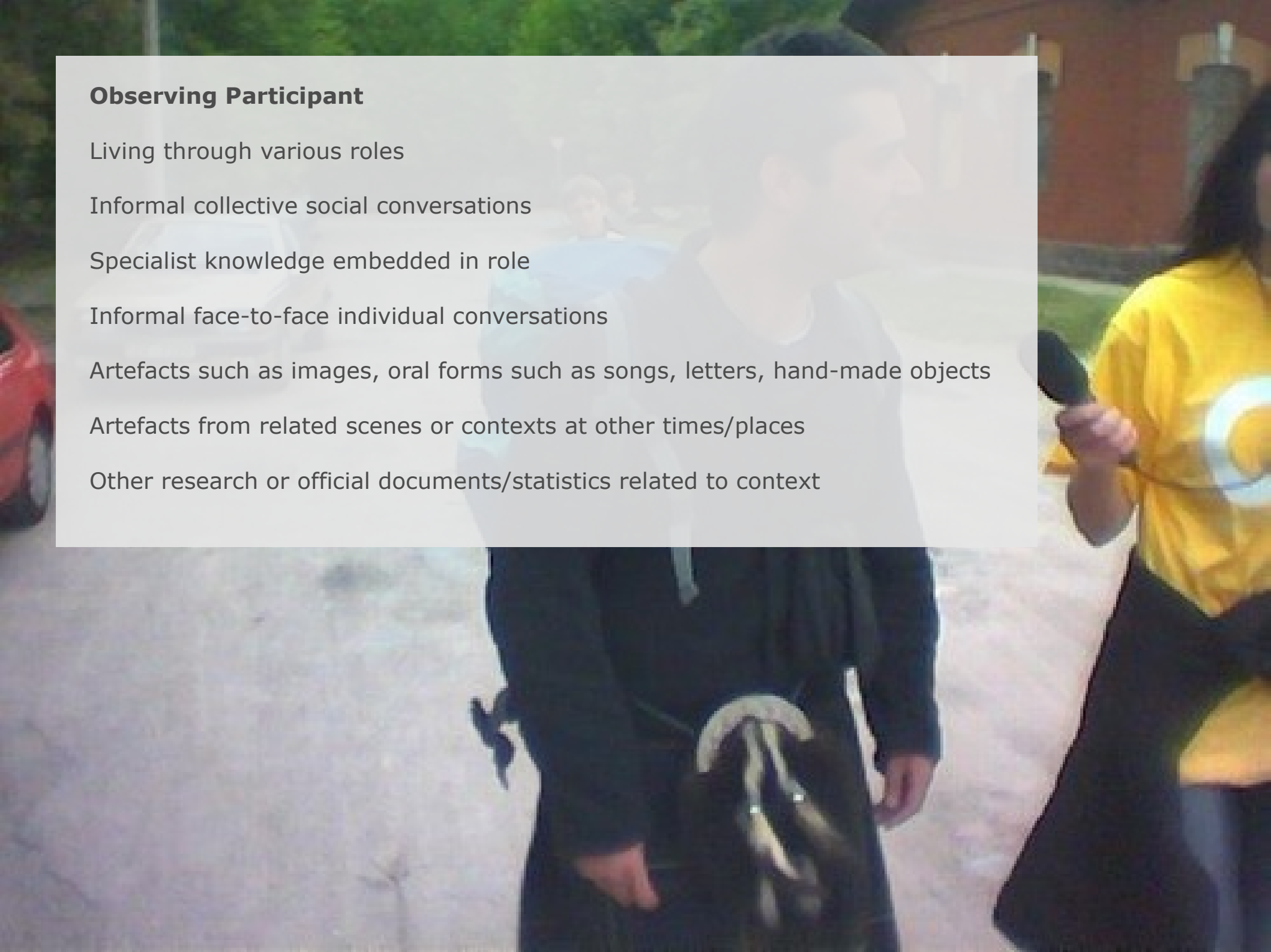
Specialist knowledge embedded in role

Informal face-to-face individual conversations

Artefacts such as images, oral forms such as songs, letters, hand-made objects

Artefacts from related scenes or contexts at other times/places

Other research or official documents/statistics related to context



## **Bringing to the field..**

Not to be forgotten but emphasised, the fieldworker brings their body to the site of interest.

As well as their emotional and intellectual self.

Specific identity and context perspectives brought -

age, gender, sexuality, history, nationality, class, politic -

Mingles with the stories, subjectivities, and histories of others present in the field.

By documenting other places and the people within,

The participants are also writing part of their own story in relation.

## Researching-through-a-role

"I went through the social roles of rookie (twice), humiliated rookie, potential sucker, aproposman, grypsman, 7 self-injury expert, faker, and tough political prisoner.

Among the major inmate roles that I did not experience were fag, squealer, corridorman, elder, fuss-master, cat, and jumper."

"[Using] my own personal experience as a valuable source of unique data rather than a starting point for reflection or existential speculation."

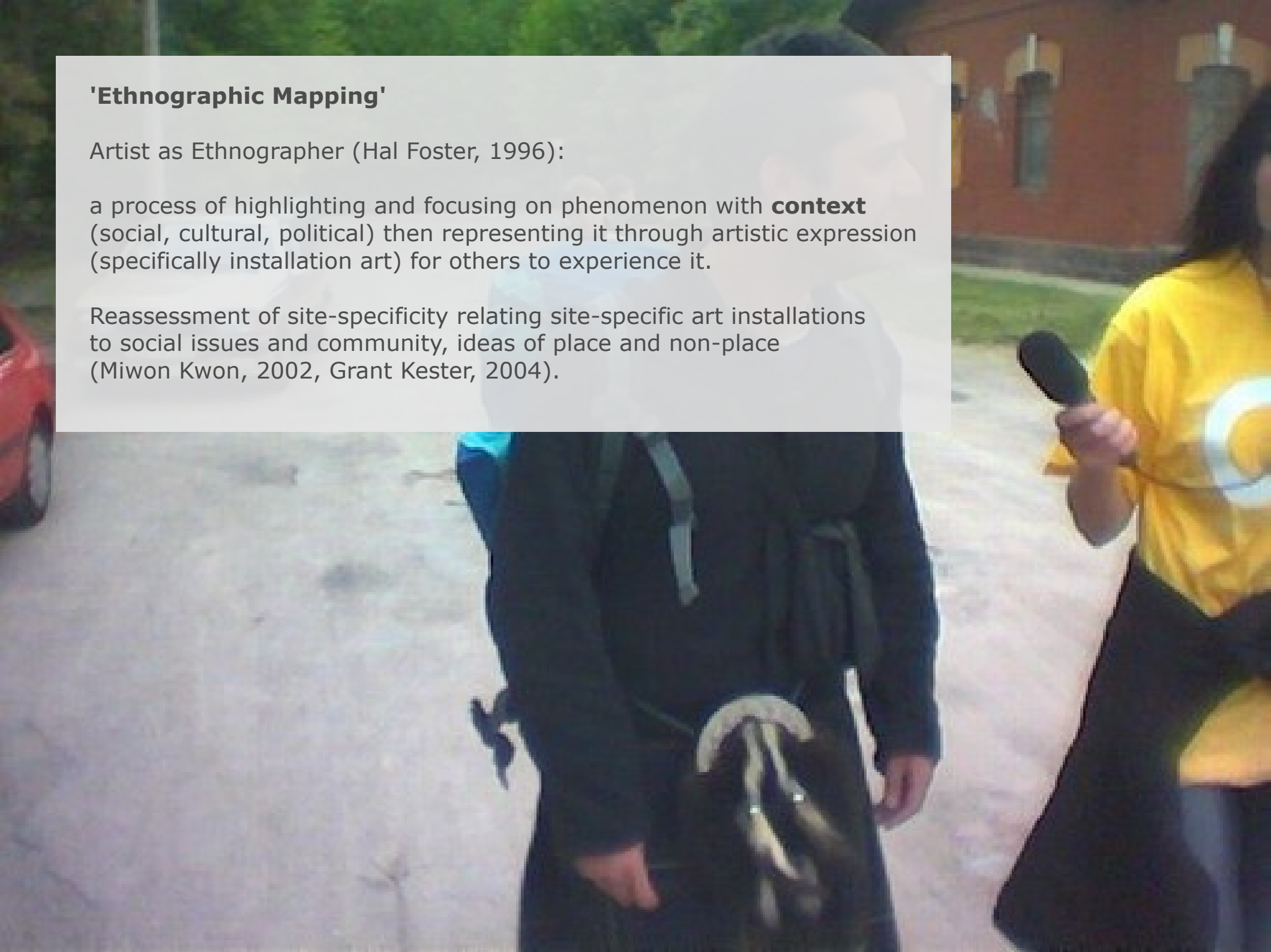
(Marek Kaminski, 2005)

## 'Ethnographic Mapping'

Artist as Ethnographer (Hal Foster, 1996):

a process of highlighting and focusing on phenomenon with **context** (social, cultural, political) then representing it through artistic expression (specifically installation art) for others to experience it.

Reassessment of site-specificity relating site-specific art installations to social issues and community, ideas of place and non-place (Miwon Kwon, 2002, Grant Kester, 2004).





**REFLECTIONS ON FIELDWORK: 2003-2007**



## Detailing and telling stories

People/Actors/Participants

- \* Authors/producers

- \* Institutions

- \* Informants/participants

- \* Audience

- \* Context of Fieldwork

- \* Finance and resources

- \* Tools

- \* Artefacts (What was produced?)

- \* Object/motives/Out comes

- \* Social-cultural rules (discourses)

- \* Communities involved

- \* Structured organised behaviour

- \* Language of dialogue

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## Summary of approaches

**=1=**

Identify a 'centre-point'/shared-space/person/collective/practice/boundary object

Follow the threads that emerge in different inter-related directions,  
from the attention \_you give/share\_

Document like a mind-map or a multi-formed narrative.

**Case Example 2003: Mapmyths in Karosta-Liepaja LV & Inari-Ivalo FI**

Case Example 2005: Oeresund Conversations in Copenhagen DK

**Case Example 2007: Add+PF+? in Chicago US**

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## Summary of approaches

=2=

Identify a 'centre-point'/shared-space/person/collective/practice/boundary object

Invite \_others to give/share\_ attention to/with it.

While temporarily in the same space, witness and document the backgrounds and particularities which each brings there.

### **Case Example 2004: Aware:Storyboard/Kadreejums in Teesside/Daugavpils UK/LV**

Case Example 2004: Aware:Rengo in Helsinki FI

Case Example 2004/2006: Locative Media:Rautatieasema in Helsinki FI

### **Case Example 2007: Hengita.. Happihuone writer-in-residence in Helsinki FI**

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