The Center for Ethnography
University of California

cordially invites you to

'ETHNOGRAPHY BY DESIGN'

CONVERSATION

WITH

Paul Dourish   **Professor, Informatics, UCI**
Chris Kelty   **Professor, Information Studies, UCLA**
George Marcus   **Director, Center for Ethnography, UCI &**
                        Professor, Department of Anthropology

The UCI Center for Ethnography is inaugurating an exploration of the ways that the varied arenas of design thinking, research, and education in disciplines such as art, architecture, urban planning, graphics, and informatics are providing resources and circumstances for changes in the classic form of ethnographic inquiry, evoked by such terms as fieldwork, participant observation, and eliciting data from informants. Over this academic year and the next, we are sponsoring a series of wide-ranging conversations, on the model of the very successful series that the Center continues to produce on particular projects and careers that have depended on conditions of collaboration. The format is lunch-time events, each initiated by a 20-30 minute conversation/ interview involving two or at most three interlocutors, and then opening discussion to the room for a remaining hour. This first event will feature a conversation among Paul Dourish, Informatics, UCI; Chris Kelty, Information Studies, UCLA and George Marcus, Director of the Center for Ethnography

Design practices, thinking, and education as a topic brings together many different fields today and stimulates interdisciplinary exchange. Ethnography is increasingly popular as a mode of inquiry and its classic practices are being reshaped in the many environments of its contemporary application. The Center's primary interest in taking up the relationship between the two is to try to map dimensions of design practice and education upon the current forms and norms of ethnographic study in order to explore their relationship as modes of inquiry and encounter with the world. In addition to analytic and methodological concerns, we have pedagogical goals in mind--that is, how design process might inform the way that students in a number of disciplines are trained to conduct ethnographic inquiry? How is ethnographic inquiry like design processes? and not? How are they related as forms of knowing, and how might they speak to each other? How might design practices inform contemporary problems of ethnographic research that involves different kinds of partnerships, collaborations, outcomes, and politics than in its established formulations?

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
12:00 noon-2:30pm
SSPB 4250 (Anthropology Library)

Light Lunch Provided - Please RSVP to
Sandy Cushman 949-824-3344 or scushman@uci.edu
For more information about the Center and its events, go to:
http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~ethnog/