

Trip Report by

Peter Guarnaccia

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The entire period was spent in residence at the Ex-Hacienda Solis working on the CRSP Project.

POSITION

Ethnographic Consultant under the direction of Drs. Gretel and Pertti Peltó. Tasks included Ethnographic field work, instrument design and testing, participation in planning meetings, involvement in training programs, and attendance at community events.

Ethnographic fieldwork

1. Attended a wide variety of community meetings, including meetings about the ejido, water systems, the primary care health program, etc. Took field notes, made tape recordings, and photographed as relevant. These notes are all filed with the project both in Mexico and Connecticut.
2. Attended various markets, mapped the stalls, identified foods, and asked for prices to gather a baseline of food availability.
3. Interviewed providers at various health centers to find out about services, costs, and major problems seen. Designed a form for collection of this data for all health resources in the Valley of Solis.
4. Accompanied other interviewers, esp. for diet, to observe families, their housing, material style of life, and child care practices.
5. Interviewed four mothers intensively about dietary beliefs and practices, health beliefs and intervention strategies, pregnancy experience and practices, and activity patterns during a typical day for key family members.
6. Did a community follow-up of a child who was a patient at the Hospital and reported on incommunity practices and family conceptions of the health problem.
7. Interviewed the Presidente of the ejido about the history of the ejido and agricultural development in the valley.
8. Interviewed a local huesero ("bonesetter") to find out more about this prevalent form of traditional health provider.

Instrument Design and Testing

With Prof. Pertti Peltó, designed a two page socio-economic interview which had questions on material style of life, animal and agricultural implement ownership, use of the health system, and social support. Trained the diet interviewers to administer the interviews. Collected 109 interviews and tabulated the results. This information has been reported in recent reports of the Mexico CRSP.

Participation in Planning Meetings

Participated in meetings to design the ethnographic aspects of the pilot, to develop the socio-cultural aspects of the pilot and to discuss overall project activities. Also participated in a number of planning sessions concerning the primary care health project.

Involvement in Training Programs

1. With Prof. Pertti Pelto, developed a training program in community research and outreach for the community health workers hired by the project to do morbidity research and to work with the primary care project. This program included community research methods, data analysis, problem identification, and education techniques. It was designed to fit within the two month training program for the community health workers. This program also included anatomy & physiology, disease recognition and recording, treatment, and case management.
2. Participated in a community research methods course for all Mexico CRSP staff led by Prof. Pertti Pelto.
3. Trained the diet team in the socio-economic interview.
4. Participated with Drs. Pelto in the training of Luz Maria Memeses, Social Worker for the project. Ms. Memeses was trained to develop interviews, to train others in their delivery, to compile data, to collect ethnographic notes, and to continue the development of the social and economic areas.

Attendance at Community Events

Attended community fiestas, public meetings, markets, and religious events to better understand the social context of the research.

Fieldnotes on all of these activities are filed with the Mexico CRSP.

Respectfully submitted,



 Peter Guarnaccia, M.A.