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On Anthropological Fieldwork: Does Fieldwork Experience Matter in Writing Postmodern Ethnography?

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ABSTRACT This paper examines whether fieldwork experience makes any significant contribution to writing postmodern ethnography. Since the publication of *Writing Culture*, issues of objectivity, ethnographic representation, and the role of the researcher in ethnographic fieldwork have undergone critical scrutiny. Taking the political and subjective nature of ethnographic research as a point of departure, this paper critically examines whether personal accounts and experiences of conducting fieldwork shape the writing of postmodern ethnography. Through narration of fieldwork experiences in northwestern Bangladesh, it is argued that the materials of ethnographic writing do not only come from the formal application of methodological tools for collecting data; rather, researchers' own observation and experiences of fieldwork significantly shape the ways postmodern ethnography is produced.