

WHAT IS URBAN Archaeology?

by: Lauren M Shank

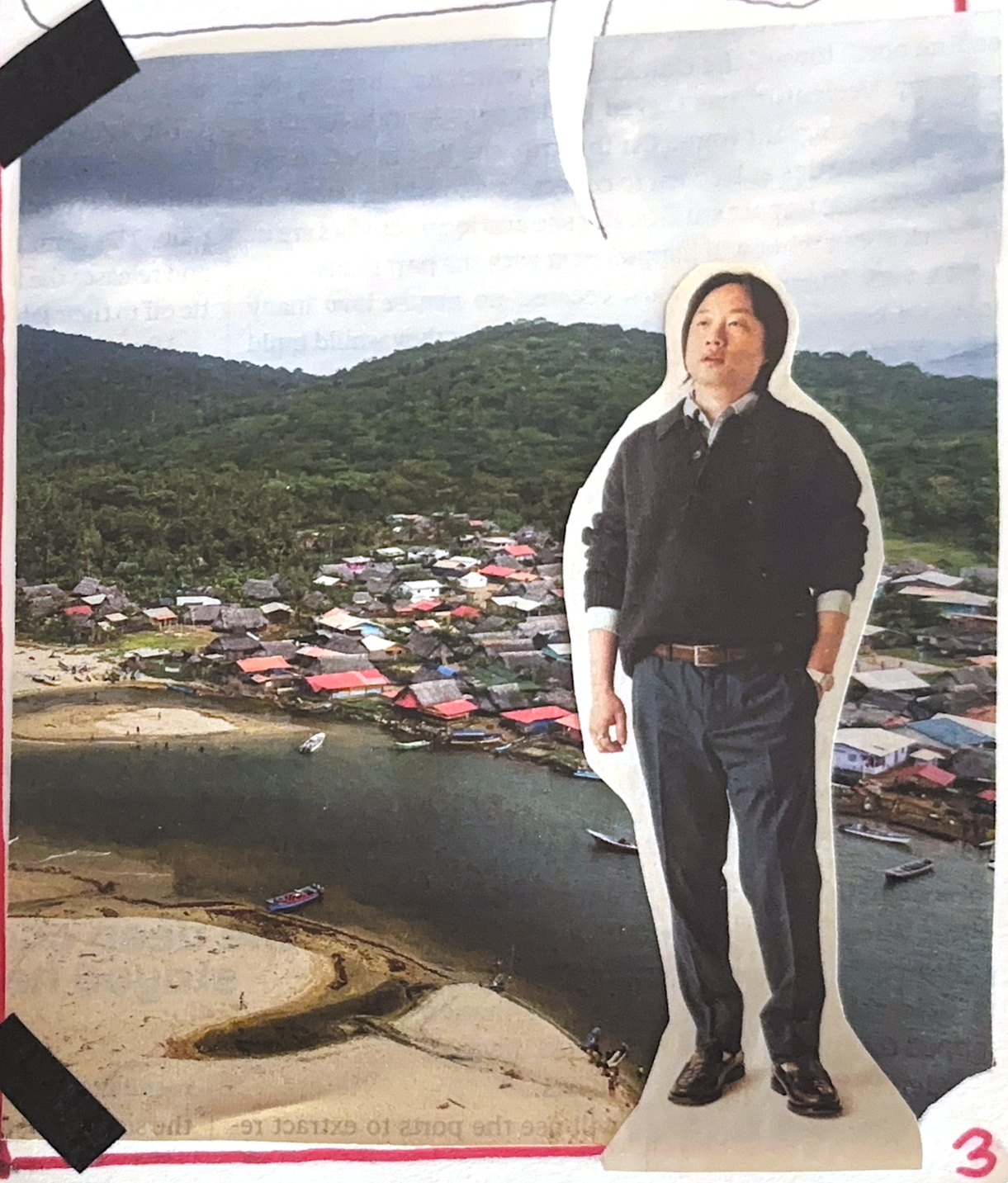
WHAT IS

URBAN

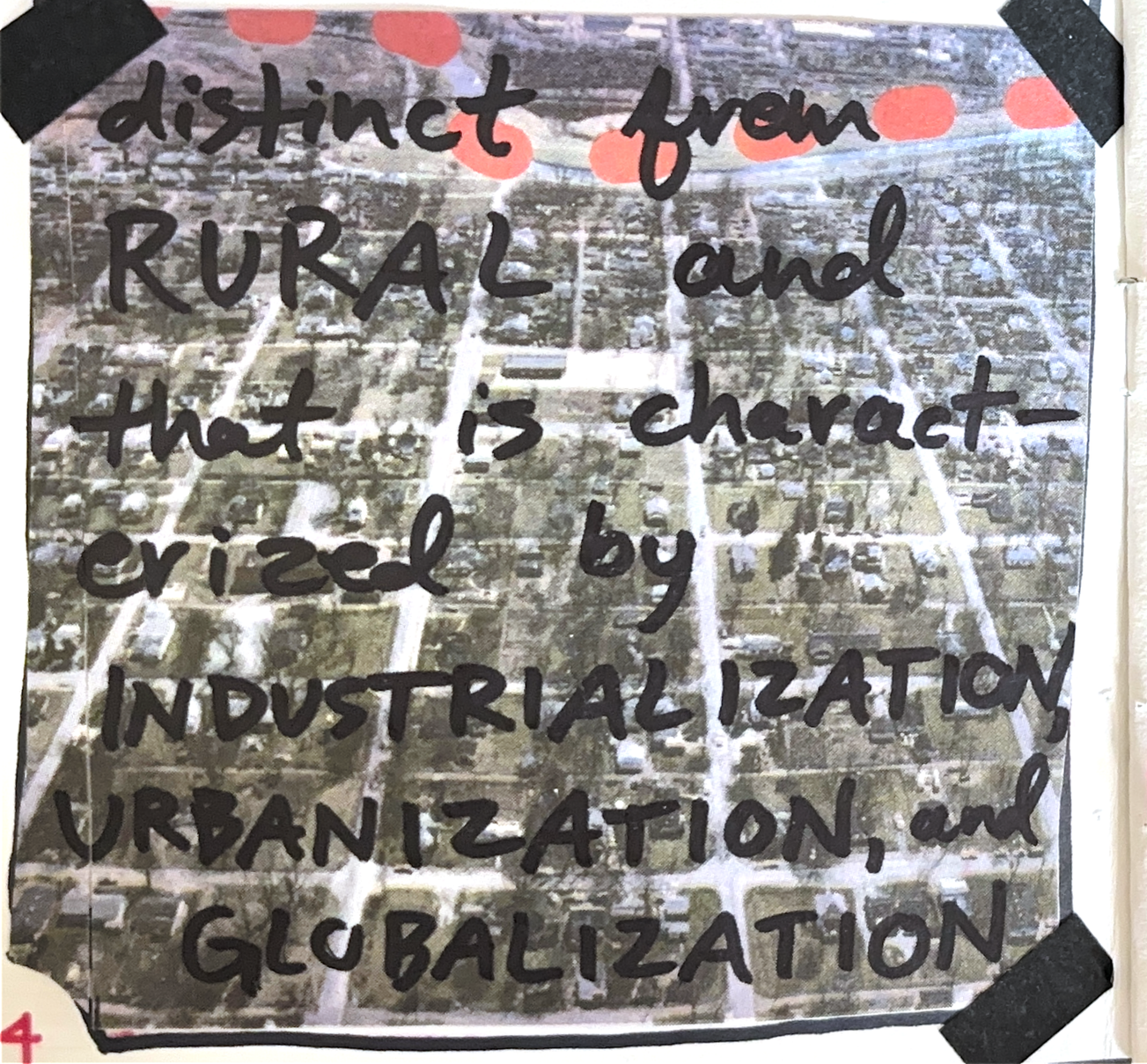
Anthropology

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What is "urban"?



URBAN defines a type of human settlement that is



distinct from RURAL and that is characterized by INDUSTRIALIZATION, URBANIZATION, and GLOBALIZATION

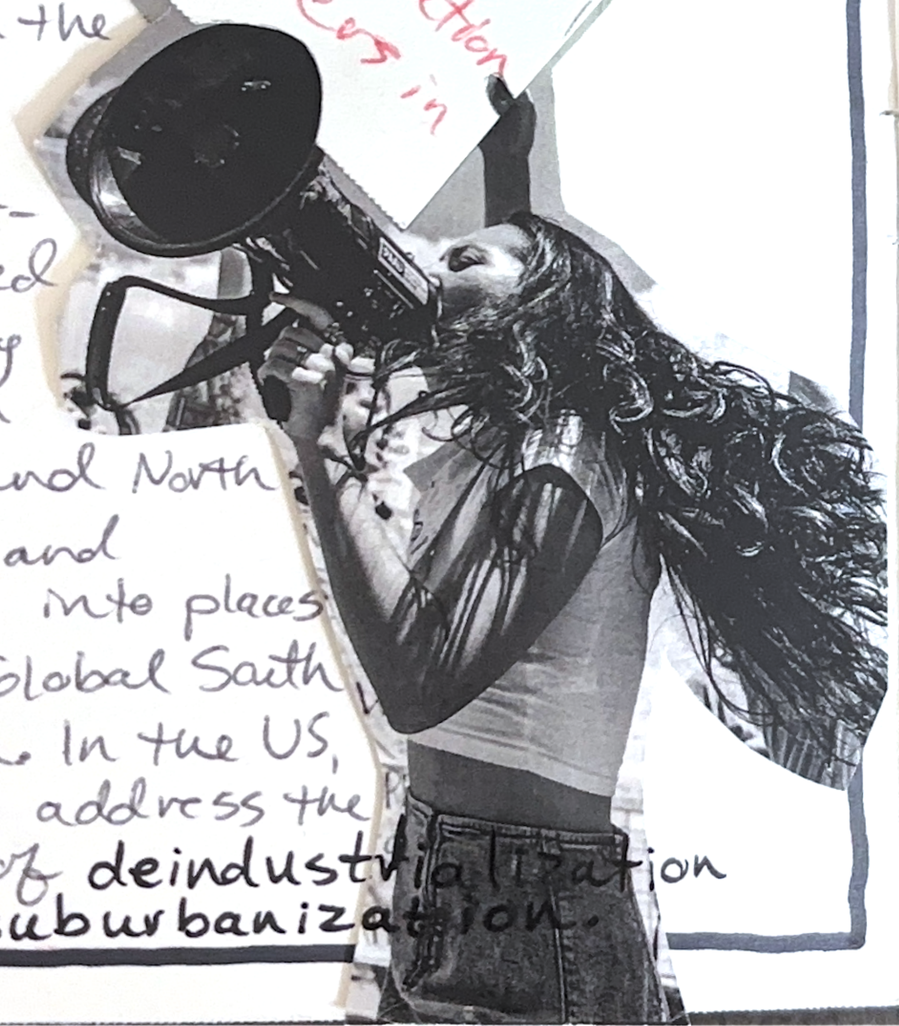
For most of human history, the majority of HUMANS did not live in urban places.



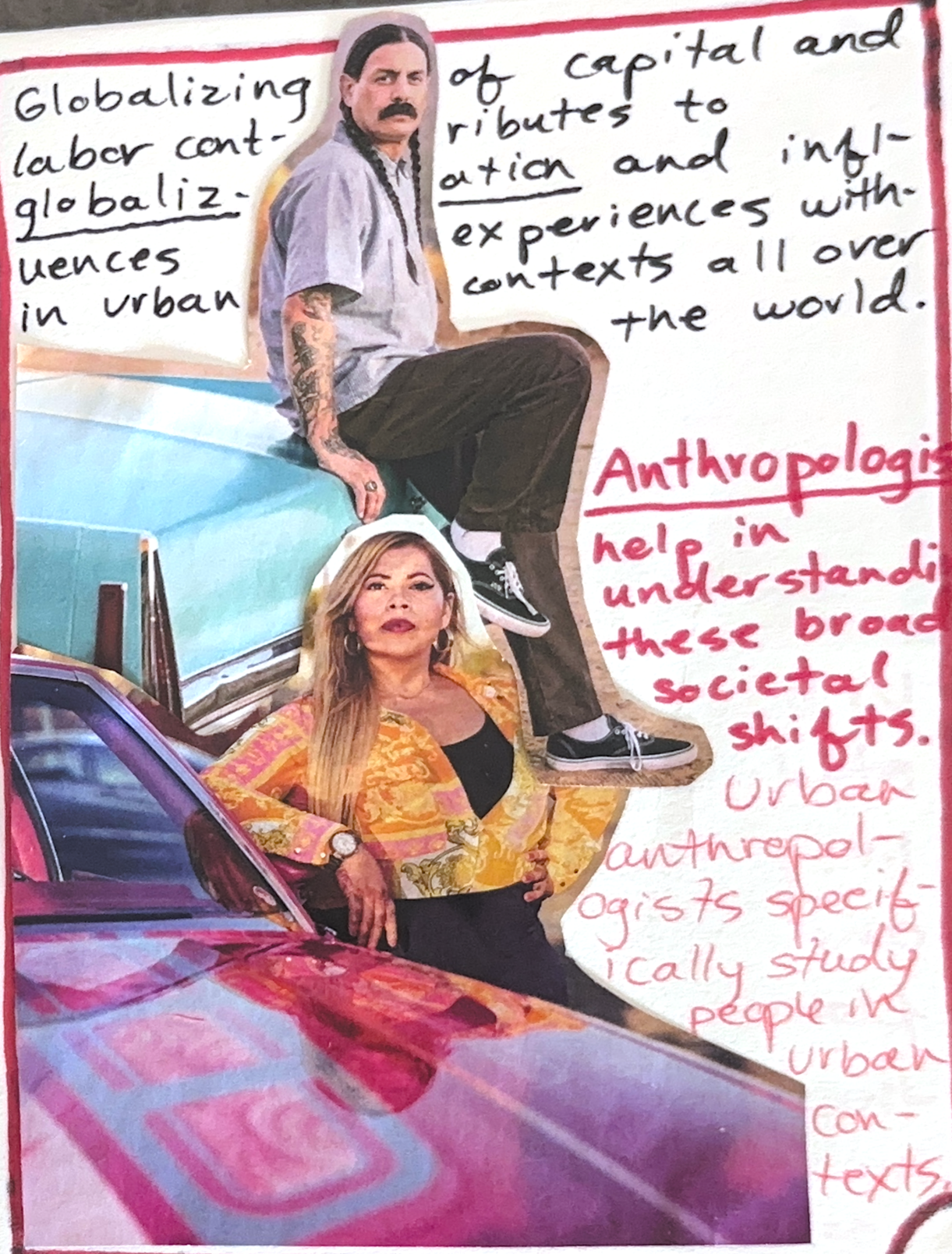
However, today, because of URBANIZATION...

...For the first time, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. In the 1800s in Europe, the Industrial Revolution caused the concentration of factory workers in urban centers.

Today, cities look a little different. In the mid-late 1900's, manufacturing moved out of city centers in Europe and North America and eventually into places in the Global South and Asia. In the US, we must address the impacts of **deindustrialization** and **suburbanization**.



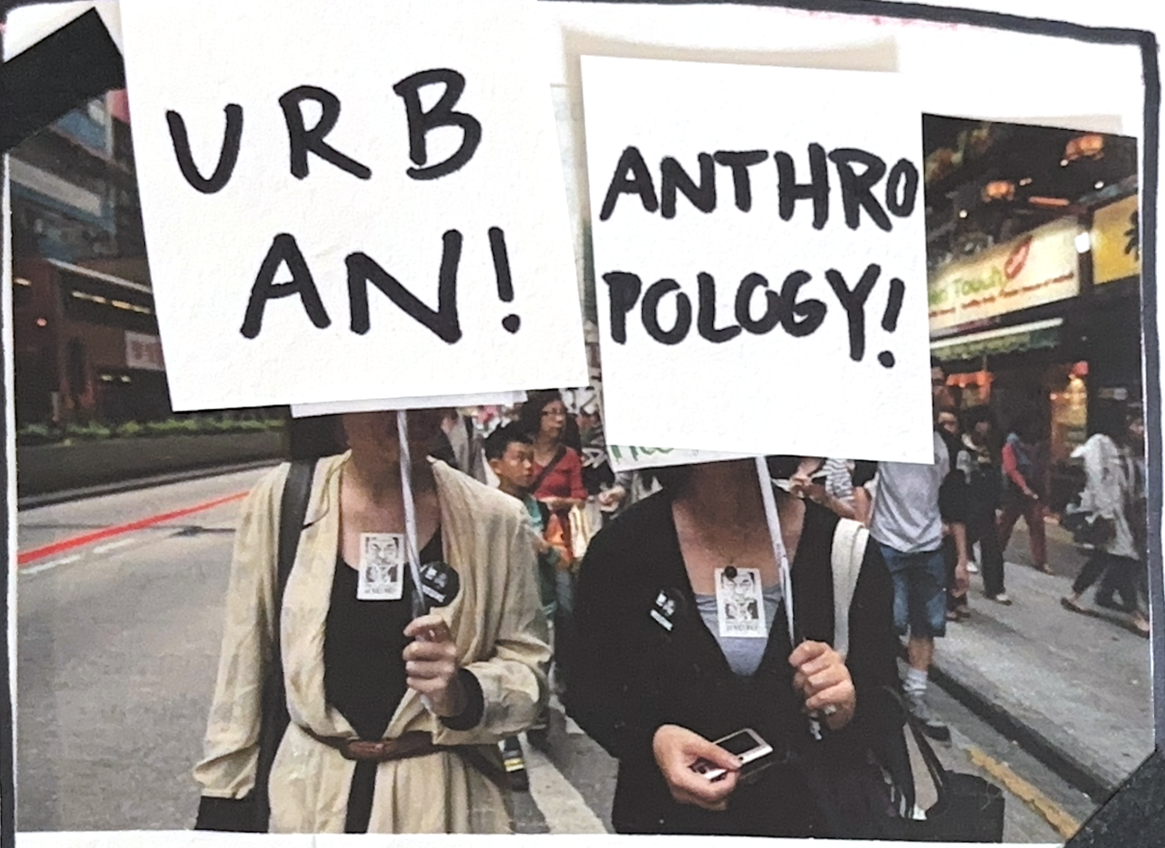
Globalizing labor contributes to globalizations in urban experiences with-in contexts all over the world.



Anthropologists help in understanding these broad societal shifts. Urban anthropologists specifically study people in urban contexts.

URB AN!

ANTHRO POLOGY!



Urban anthropologists study the everyday lives of urban-dwellers and the systems, flows, and connections that influence culture, inequality, diversity, solidarity, economies, etc.

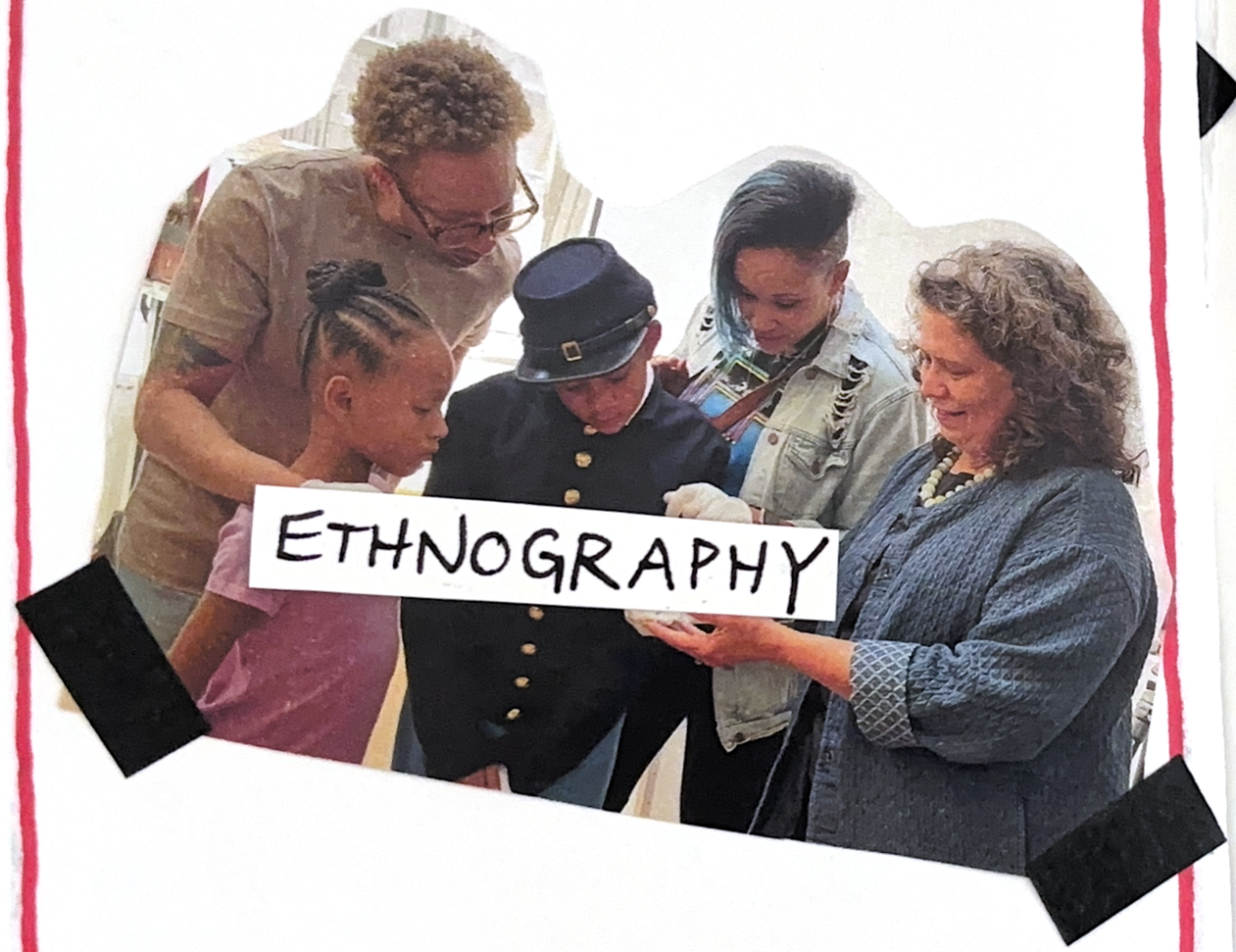
They also study CITIES...




A city can be characterized by size, density, heterogeneity (or, social/class/cultural diversity), anonymity, and inequality.


Some anthropologists define what a city is by its FUNCTION + GROWTH: are where centers of political/economic/cultural/religious power converge. Some focus on social relationships. Others examine how cities are socially constructed, or how they come to be because people believe they are or are made to be by power. Others still look at social-material-tech processes, which is flows of people, money, ideas, tech, etc.

Anthropologists gather data through...

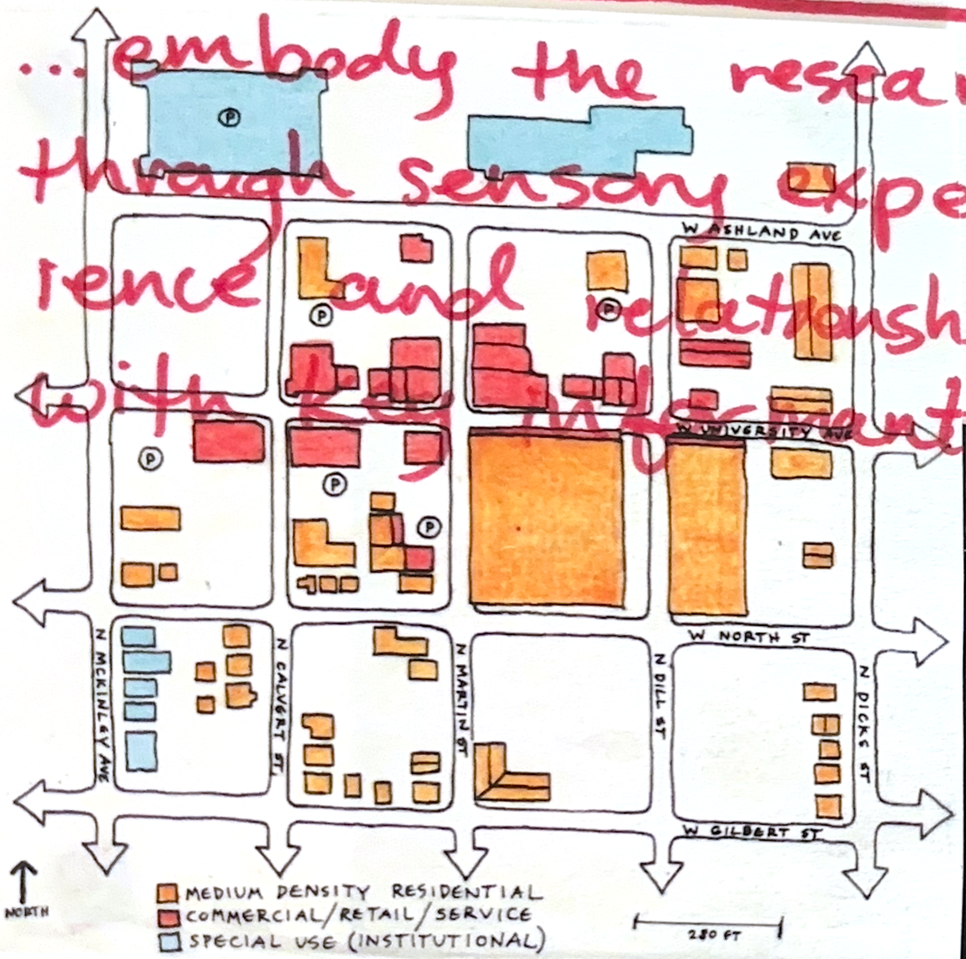






Ethnography includes participant observation, interviews, fieldnotes, mapping, and others. It take a long time to develop and requires the researchers to...

...embody the research through sensory experience and relationships with key informants







this approach

allows anthropologists to gain a complex understanding of urban life

