The University of Maryland’s Department of Anthropology and the Cultural Systems Analysis Group Present:

CuSAG’s Seminar Series on
*Applied Urban Ethnographic and Community Health Sciences*

May 4, 2010. 4 – 5:30 PM
Department of Anthropology, 0104 Woods Hall

Judith Freidenberg, PhD
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Anthropology

“Epistemology of Ethnographic Knowledge: Virtual Versus Conventional Ethnography”

Seminar Overview:
Ethnographers are often confronted with the problem of how to identify study populations on which there is lack of reliable demographic data and of scholarly literature. In this presentation, Dr. Freidenberg will contend that virtual ethnography allows for a preliminary exploration of the study population and contributes to (1) understanding major issues of concern to informants; and (2) contextualizing the conventional ethnography phase following a virtual phase. Drawing on a study of U.S. nationals residing in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dr. Freidenberg plans to engage the audience in reflective discussion on epistemological, methodological and ethical issues of conventional and virtual ethnography.

Series Overview:
This is the third seminar in a new CuSAG initiative with several goals in mind: (1) to give greater visibility to the creativity and value that ethnography can bring to our understanding of urgent health and social issues and to the development of programs to address such issues; (2) To share the innovative ways that anthropologists, and others, have applied ethnography, particularly in urban and complex human situations; (3) to bring “scientific” rigor and a level of standardization to the study of socio-cultural contexts, processes and meaning systems in health and other social issues; and (4) to move towards the development of a consortium structure focused on applied urban ethnographic and community health sciences. Other researchers (non-ethnographers), and others interested in ethnography and community health are welcomed to attend and make future presentations at these seminars.