how do we visualize culture?

- relationship btw. things & ideas?
- how to not disconnect these from context?
- what about the "virtual"?

Artifacts - do not treat as discrete

1) boundaries btw. artifacts & materials
   as relative, e.g. "food"
2) significance varies widely within/btw. cultures
3) material objects can be put to unintended purposes

Technology: how is this object made/produced/used/distributed?
- ignores expressive materials that matter:
  what do they mean to users?
- can objects accurately represent?
  can include researcher → what materials matter to them?
Problems

Distortion 1: treating material & non-material culture as discrete

Distortion 2: visible vs. non-visible

Confused what can't be seen vs. what's not noticed

3 overlapping domains:

1) all elements of culture materially visible
2) subset noticed & noted by researchers as significant for study
3) another subset noticed & noted by cultural members as significant to their world

4) members can "see" things not visible to untrained eye

3 propositions:

1) all cultural practices depend on material support
2) materials have physical properties that can be made visible
3) all cultural phenomena can be examined visually
Overview

how do things matter? in terms of culture?
how do we create context?
how do we capture the non-visual?

but
b) boundaries between things and things is unclear
b) significance varies
b) material objects can be used in unexpected ways

Technology: process of making/use

Materials that matter: what do they mean to users?

Community
Read
Think
Belong
Like
Body
Ownership
Mediation
examples: reading, thinking, talking -> immaterial based on material

Embodied cultural activity - what is required of bodies

Commodified culture: what does it look like to "own" cultural form?

Mediated communication: what are people entangled with when they interact through different media?

Papers
3 groups (need 4)?

Places for improvement
1) evidence w/o analysis
2) list of points but no synthesis
3) analysis w/o evidence
4) quick reading of image

Sophie Shoo
Crew
Elections divestment
Privilege & poverty