

Doing research ethically

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Structure of the session

Ethical approaches to the research process – Piran White

Ethical research in the field – Souheila Abbeddou

Ethical approaches to research impact – Soraya El Kahlaoui

The research process



Conceptualising the project



Designing the methodology



Undertaking field work



Developing research outputs



Generating impact

Conceptualising the project

- Think carefully about **who will benefit** from the research and how those benefits will be articulated and delivered
- Involve **academic and non-academic partners** from the outset, and seek opportunities for co-creation of the project so that it truly meets local needs.
- Establish a **diverse group of people** for the initial project discussions, including diversity of gender, race, citizenship, stage of career etc.
- Be aware of **inequalities and barriers to representation** in the country in which you are working.

Designing the methodology

- Develop **ethics applications closely with partners**, and ensure ethics applications are consistent with the focal country's ethics approval processes.
- Make sure that **data collection is targeted and culturally-sensitive** and be aware of potential biases in secondary data.
- Seek **participants' consent** in a way that is meets ethical requirements and is culturally appropriate, consulting with in-country partners on the best approach.
- Consider in conjunction with research partners and participants appropriate **arrangements for rights of access to, and use of, data**.

Undertaking fieldwork

- Reflect on **your own positionality** so you can anticipate and address power inequalities between yourself, local researchers and participants.
- Consider carefully possible **risks to yourself and others** involved in your research, and how to mitigate them.
- Select venues and time slots for focus groups, interviews and workshops that are **accessible for all** and which will avoid bias in participation
- Maximise opportunities for involving in-country partners in all stages of the research, and do this in ways that are **in keeping with local cultures**.

Developing research outputs

- Be **inclusive in authorship**, and ensure that in-country partners have the opportunity to be involved in outputs.
- Properly **acknowledge all contributors** including translators, local assistants, external organisations that provided data etc.
- Publish in **full open access journals** as far as possible, so that the publication can be read widely in all countries.
- Consider **publishing work in the languages of focal countries** and support translations of English-language outputs in the languages of fieldwork countries.

Generating impact

- Share your research findings in ways that will have **impact locally**, e.g. policy briefs, infographics, short videos, public events.
- Maximise the **accessibility of publicity materials**, including consideration of language and literacy levels in the target populations.
- Consider how to **‘give back’ to the community** where you have done your research.
- **Work with in-country organisations** as far as possible in relation to engagement and outreach activities.

Engagement e



For the community-voiced film 'Salobre', see:
<https://youtu.be/mEAXs2vxHLc>

The 'Golden Rule' of research ethics

- *'Only do to others as you would want them to do to you'*
- Useful as a starting point, but what is right for you may not be right for someone else with different beliefs, cultural background, gender, life stage etc.
- An **adapted golden rule**: 'This person is *this person*, and if I care about them as much as I care about myself, then what would I do?' (Hundert, 2001).
- Should we be moving towards a more **inclusive research model**?
 - Research *with, by* or *for* the participants, in contrast to research *on* them.

Acknowledgements and further reading

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- Further reading:
 - Hundert, E.M. (2001) A golden rule: remember the gift. *JAMA*, 286: 648-650.
 - Mind, M. (2014) *What is inclusive research?* Bloomsbury Academic Press.
 - Tilley, L. (2017) Resisting piratic method by doing research otherwise. *Sociology* 51: 27-42.
 - WHO (2016) International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans. WHO, Geneva.