Theoretical, methodological, ethical and practical issues of field research: 
A focus on war-affected areas and risk-settings

Workshop
15-16 May 2013
Seminar Room 4, Badia Fiesolana
(10 credits)

Conveners:
Christine Andrä (EUI)
Juan Masullo (EUI – COSMOS)

Sponsors:
Donatella della Porta (EUI – COSMOS)
Diego Gambetta (EUI)

The workshop will address the main theoretical, methodological, ethical and practical aspects of field research. We will discuss field research as one specific part of a research project; cover different techniques for data collection and analysis; point out related ethical and political issues and best practices for coping with them; and raise practical steps that need to be taken before, during and after the field. Although these topics pertain to all kinds of field research, the emphasis will be on field research in settings affected by war and large-scale violence or otherwise risky social contexts, highlighting the specific difficulties, opportunities and trade-offs that these contexts may entail. Workshop discussions will be based both on scholarly literature and actual fieldwork experiences of both speakers and participants.

Day 1: Wednesday, 14 May 2013

9.30 – 9.45 Welcome and Introduction

9.45 – 10.45 Setting the terms: What is field research?

Presentation by Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)

Suggested readings


Malthaner, Stefan (forthcoming) “Fieldwork in the context of violent conflict and authoritarian regimes”, in: della Porta, Donatella (ed.) Methodological practices in social...
Day 2: Thursday, 15 May 2013

9.30 – 11.00 “Finding Switch Board Operators: How to Scale Factional Divisions in Conflict Situations”

Presentation by Tony Robben (Utrecht University)

Suggested readings
[TBD]

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 1.15 Round Table Discussion “Comparing Different Approaches to Fieldwork: What is the purpose of field research in our respective projects?”
Panelists
Elisabeth Wood (Yale University)
Tony Robben (Utrecht University)
Donatella della Porta (EUI – COSMOS)

Moderator
Stefan Malthaner (EUI – COSMOS)

Suggested readings


1.15 – 2.45 Lunch Break

2.45 – 5.00 Practical Issues: “Experiences from the Field”

Presentations by 4 EUI researchers (TBD)

Please register with Adele Battistini (Adele.Battistini@eui.eu)