EUI | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Life Cycle of Fieldwork
2-3 May 2023
Seminar Room, Villa Malafrasca & Conference room, Villa la Fonte

Faculty Sponsor: Prof. Stephanie Hofmann
Max Weber Instructor: Dr Samuel Ritholtz
Researcher Instructors: Wolfgang Minatti and Ophelia Nicole-Berva
External Speaker: Prof. Sarah Parkinson, Johns Hopkins University

This two-day, 10-credit workshop guides participants through the 'life cycle' of fieldwork for research, from pre-fieldwork planning to data collection, as well as post-fieldwork analysis. All sessions will be taught in an interactive and practical way. The first day asks fundamental questions such as why one does fieldwork in the first place as well as how does one get access and manage their data effectively. On the second day, we zoom into the challenges of fieldwork, considerations of ethics & safety, and different methods of data-gathering, including participant observation and ethnography. prepare This workshop will be focused on the practical development of skills for the field. Over the two days, students should prepare to bring their own questions and insights relating to safe, effective, and ethical research involving human subjects.

For inquiries, please write to samuel.ritholtz@eui.eu .

* indicates required reading for session.

Day 1 – 2 May - Seminar Room, Villa Malafrasca

Session 1: Why do fieldwork?
10:00-12:00
Instructor: Samuel Ritholtz

a. Clark, Tom. 2008. "`We're Over-Researched Here!': Exploring Accounts of Research Fatigue within Qualitative Research Engagements." *Sociology* 42(5): 953–70.
b. Della Porta, Donatella, and Michael Keating. 2008. "How Many Approaches in the Social Sciences? An Epistemological Introduction." In *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*, 19–39. Cambridge, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press.
c. Eck, Kristine, and Dara Kay Cohen. 2021. "Time for a Change: The Ethics of Student-Led Human Subjects Research on Political Violence." *Third World Quarterly* 42, no. 4: 855–66.*****
d. Routley, Laura, and Katharine A. M. Wright. 2021. "Being Indiana Jones in IR: The Pressure to Do 'Real' Fieldwork." In *The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork*, eds. Roger Mac Ginty, Roddy Brett, and Birte Vogel. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 85–100.*****

Session 2: Getting Access & Conducting Interviews
13:00-15:00
Instructors: Stephanie Hofmann and Samuel Ritholtz

   a. Fujii, Lee Ann. 2009. *Killing neighbors : webs of violence in Rwanda*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, *Chapter 1 - Fieldwork in the Aftermath of War and Genocide**
   b. Fujii, Lee Ann. 2010. "Shades of Truth and Lies: Interpreting Testimonies of War and Violence." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2): 231–41.
   c. Harvey, William S. 2011. "Strategies for Conducting Elite Interviews." *Qualitative Research* 11(4): 431–41.
   d. Mitton, Kieran. "Making contact: interviewing rebels in Sierra Leone." *The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork* (2021): 175-187.*

Session 3: Good Data Practices – Collecting, Managing, and Protecting Data
15:30-17:00
Instructor: Samuel Ritholtz
   a. Jacobs, Alan, *et al*, "The Qualitative Transparency Deliberations: Insights and Implications," *Perspectives on Politics* 19/1 (March 2021): 171-208.
   b. Krystalli, Roxani. "When Humans Become Data." The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork (2021): 35-46.*
   c. Luker, Kriston. 2008. *Salsa dancing into the social sciences: research in an age of info-glut*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp.1-21.*
   d. Monroe, Kristen Renwick, "The Rush to Transparency: DA-RT and the Potential Dangers for Qualitative Research," *Perspectives on Politics* 16/1 (2018): 141-48.
   e. Punch, S. (2012). Hidden struggles of fieldwork: Exploring the role and use of field diaries. *Emotion, Space and Society*, *5*(2), 86–93.

Day 2 – 3 May - Conference room, Villa la Fonte

Session 4: Challenges and Collaboration during Fieldwork
10:00-12:00
Instructors: Wolfgang Minatti, Ophelia Nicole-Berva, and Samuel Ritholtz
   a. Chapter 10 "Analyzing, writing, and retooling in the field" from Kapiszewski, Diana, Lauren M. MacLean, and Benjamin L. Read. 2015. *Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
   b. Gellman, Mneesha. (2022). Collaboration as decolonization? Methodology as a framework for research with indigenous peoples. Qualitative & Multi-method Research, 20(2), 8–13.
   c. Kloß, S. T. (2017). Sexual(ized) harassment and ethnographic fieldwork: A silenced aspect of social research. *Ethnography's Kitchen*, *18*(3), 396–414.*
   d. Middleton, Townsend, and Jason Cons. 2014. "Coming to Terms: Reinserting Research Assistants into Ethnography's Past and Present." *Ethnography* 15(3): 279–90.*
   e. Pollard, Amy. 2009. "Field of Screams: Difficulty and Ethnographic Fieldwork." *Anthropology Matters* 11(2).

https://www.anthropologymatters.com/index.php/anth_matters/article/view/10.

Session 5: Positionality, Safety, Ethics during and after fieldwork
Instructors: Samuel Ritholtz
13:00-15:00
   a. Baalen, Sebastian. 2018. "'Google Wants to Know Your Location': The Ethical Challenges of Fieldwork in the Digital Age." *Research Ethics* 14(4): 1–17.
   b. Cronin-Furman, Kate, and Milli Lake. 2018. "Ethics Abroad: Fieldwork in Fragile and Violent Contexts." *Political Science & Politics* 51(3): 607–14.*
   c. Gallien, Max, 2021. Solitary Decision-Making and Fieldwork Safety. *The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork*, 115-129.
   d. Jacobson, D., & Mustafa, N. 2019. Social Identity Map: A Reflexivity Tool for Practicing Explicit Positionality in Critical Qualitative Research. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, *18*.
   e. Knott, Eleanor. 2019. "Beyond the Field: Ethics after Fieldwork in Politically Dynamic Contexts." *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1): 140–53.
   f. Roborgh, S. 2021. From Risk Aversion to Risk Management. *The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork*, 115-129.*

Session 6: Ethnography, Participant Observation, and the 'Meta-Data' of Fieldwork
Instructors: Samuel Ritholtz and Sarah Parkinson
15:30-17:30
   a. Fujii, Lee Ann. "Five stories of accidental ethnography: Turning unplanned moments in the field into data." *Qualitative Research* 15, no. 4 (2015): 525-539.*
   b. Parkinson, Sarah E. *Beyond the Lines: Social Networks and Palestinian Militant Organizations in Wartime Lebanon*. Cornell University Press, 2023, Chapter 2 – Memories & Mythologies of Militancy: An Ethnographic Approach to Studying Militant Organizations*
   c. Simmons, Erica. and Smith, Nick R., 2019. The case for comparative ethnography. *Comparative Politics*, *51*(3), pp.341-359.
   d. Wolfinger, Nicholas H. 2002. "On Writing Fieldnotes: Collection Strategies and Background Expectancies." *Qualitative Research* 2(1): 85–93.
   e. Wedeen, Lisa. 2010. Reflections on ethnographic work in political science. *Annual Review of Political Science*, *13*, pp.255-272.

Further Readings
- Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln, eds. 2011. *The Sage handbook of qualitative research*. Sage.
- Fujii, L. A. 2017. *Interviewing in Social Science Research: A Relational Approach*. Routledge.
- Lake, Milli, and Sarah E. Parkinson. 2017. "The Ethics of Fieldwork Preparedness." *Political Violence at a Glance*. https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2017/06/05/the-ethics-of-fieldwork-preparedness/.
- Luker, Kristin. 2009. *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences*. Harvard University Press.
- Mac Ginty, Roger, Roddy Brett, and Birte Vogel. 2021. *The Companion to Peace and Conflict Fieldwork*. Springer.

Mandatory Pre-Workshop Assignment: By 1 May, workshop participants are asked to submit at least one question and one comment per session to Samuel Ritholtz (samuel.ritholtz@eui.eu) in response to the course readings or session subject matter. As such, each student should submit six questions and six comments prior to the first session.