

Workshop on “Data Collection and Security in Difficult Field Conditions workshop for researchers interested in Danida research grants (FFU projects)” - Organised by University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC), 7 March 2022 10:00-15:00, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus

The aim was to present and exchange experience among researchers in the area of remote data collection methods, and to discuss the measures researchers can adopt in terms of preparing for operating in insecure settings.

[LINK](#) to Youtube live-stream from the morning session

Presentations were made on:

- Data collection methods such as photo voice and remote collection of survey data (Mariève Pouliot, UCPH – [see presentation](#)),
- The use of phone and tablet for interviews (Mattias Borg Rasmussen, UCPH – [see presentation](#)),
- How to secure data in the cloud in real time, sourcing data on social media platforms, and how to build up remote and digital ethnographic method skills with South research teams (Helene Maria Kyed, DIIS – [see presentation](#)), and
- Security preparation before field work – the experience by DIIS (Helene Kyed and Peer Schouten, DIIS – [see presentation](#)).

Main take-away points:

- Security should be seen in a broad perspective:
 - **Human/physical security** when in the field and preparing for field trips.
 - **Data security** - in relation to GDPR and collecting / sharing of data.
 - **Emotional security** - related to researchers wellbeing upon returning from fieldwork under mentally tough conditions.
 - Security for research partners in the global south is equally an important point for attention.
- GDPR rules and regulations is a topic, which the Danish universities have failed in either sharing/disseminating information with relevant departments/staff/researchers. Uncertainty regarding the rules exists to a large extend.
- Regarding security in the field, DIIS has invested quite a lot of efforts in setting up a pre-fieldwork preparation scheme in relation to the type of fieldwork and country where it will be conducted.
- The use of contingency planning was emphasised as important to handle necessary adjustments that may be needed during research project implementation, especially when working in unsecure /fragile environments.
- Ethical clearances is a point for attention as the rules and procedures were not all clear amongst the participating researchers.

Way forward:

- The MFA hosted university management from all major Danish universities (all were invited) for a meeting on 21 April 2022 regarding security issues when preparing for and conducting field work.

/DFC, 8 April 2022.