OPEN INVITATION
SAFEResearch Handbook Workshop
26 April 2018

HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES & THE PROGRAM ON GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SAFEResearch Project

Conducting field research has become an increasingly risky endeavor in recent years, particularly in regions that are characterized by violent conflict, repressive political regimes, or state failure. Researchers need to think of ways to assure the physical safety of their respondents as well as themselves, and they must consider whether and how the confidentiality of information can be maintained. SAFEResearch aims at addressing these issues with the launch of a new handbook providing researchers, as well as others engaged in on-the-ground research in difficult places, with a targeted resource guiding them in engaging in safe, ethical research.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 – 'Welcome' in room A319

9:15-10:30 – **Panel 1:** Fieldwork Preparation

10:30-11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00-12:15 – **Panel 2:** In the Field

12:15-13:15 – Lunch (provided on site)

13:15-14:30 – **Panel 3:** After the Field

14:30-15:00 – Coffee Break

15:00-16:00 – **Panel 4:** Communication & Digital Security

16:00-16:45 – Wrap up

Please register here, or email saferesearchinfo@gmail.com.

At the Gothenburg Workshop, each panel will focus on a key chapter in the handbook, with key external discussants and the audience providing constructive criticism. This input will be used to revise the handbook, with an aim to sensitizing the academic community to the problems involved in field research in challenging contexts, developing a shared understanding of potential solutions, and providing strategies for addressing these problems.

The workshop will be held on Campus Linné, at Konstepidemins Väg 2, room A319. **Registration is required.** For more information, visit our **website.**

Panel 1: on Chapter 2 - Fieldwork Preparation
This chapter deals with how researchers can take precautions before venturing into the field, to ensure personal safety and the safety of interlocutors. This will include researching legalities, threat and risk assessment, and constructing emergency response plans. The chapter also covers issues on informal procedures concerning the everyday contact among scholars and different authorities as well as advice on how to designate an adequate home contact.

Discussants: Lisa Anderson and Laryssa Chomiak (Centre d'Étude Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT))

Panel 2: on Chapter 3 - In the Field
This chapter deals with the effective implementation of the precautions taken prior to the field, such as making dynamic risk assessments to continuously manage strategies in case of unforeseen changes in risk. Drawing on the experience of various Human Rights Organizations and NGO's, the chapter includes advice on behavior in various emergencies including natural disaster, medical emergencies, security emergencies and more. These aspects also extend to local contacts, and the chapter will provide advice on how to handle the risk of interlocutors.

Discussants: Maria Eriksson Baaz (School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg) and Rabab El Mahdi (The American University in Cairo)

Panel 3: on Chapter 4 - After the Field
This chapter aims to provide advice for researchers in the process of transitioning from fieldwork to writing. It deals with both practical issues such as securing data and the personal security of the researcher and the interlocutors in the long-term. Also with issues that the researcher may face when coming home from the field, such as psychological issues of trauma or having trouble "coming home" from the field. Finally, the chapter deals with how to evaluate the fieldwork preparation and the experiences from the field, in order to improve future application.

Discussants: Ato Kwamena Onoma (Research at Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa) and Swati Parashar (School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg)

Panel 4: on Chapter 5 - Communication and Digital Security
This chapter deals with ways the researcher can secure communication and data storage. The chapter handles on the one hand general guidelines when it comes to codes of conduct and advice for communication, data collection, interviews etc. In addition, it deals with practical advice to secure your communication and data storage-process, and provides step-by-step guides to distinct software for encryption, anonymous communication, etc.

Discussant: Jannis Grimm (Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin)