Call for Papers and Contributions

Dealing with Difficult Research

One-day interdisciplinary workshop on conducting research on sensitive, controversial, challenging and emotionally difficult topics

University of Warwick, Friday 13 July 2018
#DifficultResearch2018

Workshop aims
The aim of this interdisciplinary, exploratory and informal workshop is three-fold:

- To create a space in which individual researchers from a variety of different disciplines can present, discuss, and reflect on personal experiences of dealing with sensitive, controversial, challenging and emotionally difficult topics.
- To develop a discussion around the ways in which academic institutions do or do not offer support for researchers dealing with these topics and to identify ways in which institutions might provide better support for such issues.
- To establish a network of researchers that can continue these discussions and provide a supportive community for future research.

Forms of contributions
We are interested in full academic papers, more informal personal reflections and artistic performances on conducting research on sensitive, controversial, challenging and emotionally difficult topics.

Contributions might elucidate the following sorts of issues:

- Ethical, methodological, conceptual or practical issues
- Positionality of the researcher
- Safety and security during fieldwork and the research process more generally
- Navigating the research ethics/IRB approval process
- Legal issues, confidentiality, and data security
- Mental health and wellbeing during the research process
- Writing about sensitive and controversial topics
- Persecuted academics and academics in exile

Contributions are invited from researchers at all career levels, including undergraduate students, postgraduate students, PhD researchers, early career researchers and senior researchers from any disciplinary field, including (but not limited to): anthropology, sociology, politics, international studies, cultural, literary and postcolonial studies, history, history of art, holocaust and genocide studies, legal studies.

Application
To be considered, please submit a 250 word abstract and a 100 word bio to difficultresearch@gmail.com by the deadline of Wednesday 20 June. We aim to notify applicants by the end of June. Participants must register by Wednesday 4 July. Registration is free. Donations to the solidarity fund for participants who are struggling to cover travel or care-related expenses is voluntary (suggested donation: 20 GBP).

Organisers
‘Dealing with Difficult Research’ is co-organised by Dr Jennifer Eggert (Institute of Advanced Study/Department of Politics and International Studies, Warwick), Dr Stefanie Rauch (Institute of Advanced Studies/Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, UCL) and Annie Webster (Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, SOAS).
Draft Agenda

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9:30 – 10:00 Registration
10:00 – 10:45 Keynote speech
10:45 – 11:00 Mini-break
11:00 – 12:15 Panel 1
12:15 – 13:15 Lunch
13:15 – 14:30 Panel 2
14:30 – 14:45 Mini-break
14:45 – 16:00 Panel 3
16:00 – 16:30 Tea/coffee break
16:30 – 17:45 Panel 4
18:30 Dinner