

Ethics Workshop

Date and time: May-15 2015, 11.00-17.00hrs

Location: Vondelzaal (UB C1.08), UvA University Library, Singel 425, Amsterdam

During this first ethics workshop organized by the ERC research projects GLOBAL AUTHORITARIANISM (Marlies Glasius) and SECURCIT (Rivke Jaffe), we aim to discuss potential ethical dilemmas and best practices around a number of themes. Each theme will be introduced by a chair who will start the discussion with a brief presentation. In preparation, participants are asked to complete a 1p document relating to their fieldwork plans, based on the AISSR checklist. In addition, they are asked to prepare by reading a number of articles.

- 11.00 Introduction (Marlies Glasius & Rivke Jaffe)
- 11.15 **Theme 1: Preparing for the field** (Chair: Erella Grassiani)
To what extent can we prepare for ethical dilemmas prior to fieldwork? What types of orientation are possible and useful?
- 12.00 **Theme 2: Relationships with informants** (Chair: Sabine Luning)
What forms of self-representation are ethical/safe in gaining access to informants? How do we negotiate the exchange of information on sensitive topics? What are the challenges of maintaining relations beyond the fieldwork period?
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.45 **Theme 3: Keeping in touch with “home”** (Chair: Imke Harbers)
What type of protocol is useful and feasible for remaining in touch with supervisor, family, local embassies, in general and in case of emergencies? How can local supervisors and “vertrouwenspersonen” help ensure safety in the field?
- 14.30 **Theme 4: Data storage during and after fieldwork** (Chair: Rivke Jaffe)
What are safe modes of digital storage of interview sound files, contact information etc., both while in the field and back in the university office?
- 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.30 **Theme 5: Politics of representation** (Chair: Emma Jackson)
How do we write about topics, places or groups of people that are often subject to sensationalist representation?
- 16.15 Wrap-up and points for next ethics meeting
A second ethics workshop will be held in the fall – what themes still need to be covered and on which topics do we still need additional expertise?
- 17.00 Drinks

Literature

- Kovats-Bernat, J.C. (2002). Negotiating dangerous fields: Pragmatic strategies for fieldwork amid violence and terror. *American Anthropologist* 104.1, 208-222.
- Loyle, C. (2011). Awareness, Creativity and Respect: Overcoming Research Obstacles in Rwanda. *Comparative Democratization* 2.2, 17-19.
- Malekzadeh, S. (2011). Paranoia and Perspective, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Start Loving Research in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Comparative Democratization* 2.3, 20-23.
- Reny, M. (2011). Authoritarianism as a Research Constraint for Political Scientists in the Field. The Case of China. *Comparative Democratization* 2.2, 14-16.