**The ethics of no face to face methods of data collection**

This document gathers some sources that may useful to engage with as you reflect on the ethical issues related to no face-to-face methods of data collection. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and you may find other readings that allow you to reflect on the ethics of your research.

There are several issues to consider when collecting data online. For instance, if you are planning to conduct online interviews, you will have to reflect on the ‘affective atmospheres’ of conducting any kind of social research in a pandemic. We are all experiencing disruptions on our normal routines, but also some people are feeling anxious or worried, or are ill or caring for ill family members while also trying to work from home, or they may be living in a violent environment. In these contexts, it is key to consider privacy issues.

Also, if you decide to conduct analysis of social media or use any online data collection methods that engage with pre-existing material people have posted (on social media, blogs, websites, etc), you will need to carefully consider the ethical issues that emerge in relation to informed consent, privacy, anonymity and traceability.

Please see below some sources that you can access online through QMUL library and other open sources.

Eynon, R., Fry, J. & Schroeder, R. (2017). The ethics of online research. In N. FieldingR. Lee & G. Blank *The SAGE Handbook of online research methods* (pp. 19-37). 55 City Road, London: SAGE Publications Ltd doi: 10.4135/9781473957992.n2

O'Connor, H. & Madge, C. (2017). Online interviewing. In N. FieldingR. Lee & G. Blank The *SAGE Handbook of online research methods* (pp. 416-434). 55 City Road, London: SAGE Publications Ltd doi: 10.4135/9781473957992.n24

Taylor, J., & Pagliari, C. (2018). Mining social media data: How are research sponsors and researchers addressing the ethical challenges? *Research Ethics*, 14(2), 1–39. https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016117738559

Kosinski M, Matz SC, Gosling SD, Popov V, Stillwell D. Facebook as a research tool for the social sciences: Opportunities, challenges, ethical considerations, and practical guidelines. *American Psychologist*. 2015;70(6):543-556. doi:10.1037/a0039210.

Kurtz, L. C., Trainer, S., Beresford, M., Wutich, A., & Brewis, A. (2017). Blogs as Elusive Ethnographic Texts: Methodological and Ethical Challenges in Qualitative Online Research. International Journal of Qualitative Methods. https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406917705796

Sugiura, L., Wiles, R., & Pope, C. (2017). Ethical challenges in online research: Public/private perceptions. Research Ethics, 13(3–4), 184–199. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016116650720>

Morrow, O., Roberta Hawkins &Leslie Kern (2015) Feminist research in online spaces. *Gender, Place and Culture,* 22(4):526-543. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.qmul.ac.uk/10.1080/0966369X.2013.879108>

The document [Doing Fieldwork in a Pandemic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/preview) also offers some relevant sources:

* Check the Association of Internet Researchers’ document discussing these issues, available here: [IRE 3.0 - final-includes missing reference](https://aoir.org/reports/ethics3.pdf)
* Some guidelines on anthropological fieldwork generally (mostly related to in-person methods) can be found at [ASA Ethics Guidelines](https://www.theasa.org/downloads/ASA%20ethics%20guidelines%202011.pdf)
* ***GDPR issues***: Researchers in Europe have raised concerns about how to conduct digitised fieldwork and remain compliant with the GDPR. These matters certainly deserve attention. See below for some links discussing relevant issues.

[(PDF) THE IMPACT OF THE NEW EU GDPR ON ETHICS GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328009690_THE_IMPACT_OF_THE_NEW_EU_GDPR_ON_ETHICS_GOVERNANCE_AND_SOCIAL_ANTHROPOLOGY)

[How Has GDPR affected Market Research?](https://www.beamfieldwork.co.uk/how-has-gdpr-affected-market-research/)

[Is anthropology still legal? Notes on the impact of GDPR](https://superdiversity.net/2018/05/16/is-anthropology-legal/)