

Changing Research Practices for Covid-19

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Abstract. The context for this workshop is the Covid-19 global pandemic and its impact on qualitative research. Globally, qualitative social researchers are having to re-think or plan their research to take into account the public health mandates including local/national lockdowns, travel and access restrictions, and necessity to wear face coverings and keep distance from others. In the UK, the National Centre for Research Methods has been funded to explore '*Changing Research Practices for Undertaking Social Science Research in the Context of Covid-19*'.

This workshop aims to engage participants who are working on their methodological responses to researching during the pandemic. The workshop design draws on a workshop series the facilitators ran in the UK. Participants will discursively reflect on the core challenges in conducting field work, including shifts to online and other creative spaces, and the associated ethical and validity issues. A strategy of exploring recent research history with the visual metaphor of a river will assist participants to look afresh – at the rapids, meanders, whirlpools etc - of researching in Covid times. The expected outcome is renewed energy for keeping qualitative fieldwork going with (at least of the) problems shared and solved. The workshop will last for 90 minutes.

Keywords: fieldwork, digital research, qualitative methods, Covid-19

Necessary resources: No additional technical resources are needed to participate in the workshop, but participants should have experience of adapting or designing research for Covid-19 social conditions. They will need to come to the workshop having prepared an image of their research using the metaphor of a river.

Biographical note:

Melanie Nind. Professor of Education and Co-Director of the National Centre for Research Methods. She has long engagement in building capacity in research methods including (with Lewthwaite, A conceptual-empirical typology of social science research methods pedagogy, *Research Papers in Education*, 2019, 35(4) 467-87; Hard to teach: Inclusive pedagogy in social sciences research methods education, *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 2017, 22(1), 74-88; and Methods that Teach, *International Journal of Research & Method in Education*, 2018, 41(4), 398-410. She is principal investigator on the NCRM *Changing Research Practices for Undertaking Social Science Research in the Context of Covid-19* study.

Robert Meckin. Presidential Fellow in the School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester. He is interested in methodologies in natural and social sciences, how communities collaborate to produce knowledge, and the ways technologies find their places in particular communities and practices (Changing infrastructural practices: Routine and reproducibility in automated interdisciplinary bioscience. *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 2020, 45(6) 1220-1241; Situating anticipation in everyday life: Using sensory methods to explore public expectations of synthetic biology. *Public*



Understanding of Science, 2018, 28(3) 290–304). He is co-investigator on the NCRM *Changing Research Practices for Undertaking Social Science Research in the Context of Covid-19* study.

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