

**MITIGATING THE FILTHINESS
OF FIELDWORK BY
LOCALIZING GENERIC
STRATEGIES**

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OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION

- Context, culture, and circumstances shaped fieldwork conducts.
- Personal experiences, self-reflexivity, challenges encountered, and overcoming strategies.

Ethical Issues

- ❖ Ethical review committee
- ❖ TAP advice
- ❖ Consent forms (right to withdraw, utilization and protection of data, anonymity, avoidance of harm and others).
- ❖ Reciprocity
 - Letters of acknowledgements
 - An envelope
 - Tips to some gatekeepers
 - Offered lunch
 - Cooked food
 - Administered exams

Ethical Issues Cont'd

❖ Anonymity

- Controversial issue

❖ Respect

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom to choose venue
- Use of titles
- Institutional culture
- Respected appointment time/days

❖ Risk assessment

- Information management

Ethical Issues Cont'd

❖ Advice

❖ Promises

- Share research findings
- Provide transcripts

❖ Ethics in use of documents

❖ Ethics in transcription

NEGOTIATING ACCESS

Gate keepers

Formal channels

- Junior staff
- Security staff
- Secretaries
- Low profile colleagues
- University campus security staff
- High profile interviewees

Informal channels

- Acquaintances
- Old friends
- Step-father of a friend
- Former mentor
- Relatives

-It is imperative to provide a thorough explanation to gatekeepers concerning the objectives and reasons of your research when meeting them (Benton & Cormack, 2000).

Negotiating Access

- Multiple positionalities
 - ✓ CSC scholar
 - ✓ PhD research student from UoY
 - ✓ Cameroonian
 - ✓ Christian
 - ✓ Indigene from North West Region - Babanki
 - ✓ BOBAN
 - ✓ Former colleague from BUST
 - ✓ Graduate from ENS, UBa, UB

Negotiating Access Cont'd

- Presentation of credentials
 - ❑ Institutional authorization letter
 - ❑ Authorization letter from MINESUP
 - ❑ CSC Notification of Award Letter
 - ❑ University of York student ID
 - ❑ Cameroon NID

“Starting where you are can ease your access to certain research sites and informants” (Anderson *et al.* 2006:9).

Negotiating Access Cont'd

- Application letter (purpose of the research; who I was; why the institution was chosen, and the kinds of participants needed; length of the interview; expectations of the interviewees and ground rules).
- Presented names of those already interviewed
- Connection power

Negotiating Access Cont'd

- Presentation of interview guide
- Snowball
- Absolute power by participants
- Professional in approach
- Persistent

Negotiating Access Cont'd

- Situationally by-passed hierarchy
- Smart, flexible and adaptable
- Collected contacts of potential interviewees
- Used British accent

Negotiating Access Cont'd

- Luck
- Adapted ways of addressing interviewees
- Respected institutional culture.

Obstacles Encountered/Overcoming Strategies

Obstacles	Overcoming strategies
<p>Woman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Didn't negotiate my safety - Didn't invest much time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor means of transportation - Difficulty to budget time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologized for delay - Re-scheduled appointments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negative mentality towards research/interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented consent forms - Focused on thesis not jobs/organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Busy nature of institutions eg meetings, conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patience - Re-visited institutions - Took advantage of those who were free/willing to comply

Obstacles Encountered/Overcoming Strategies

Obstacles	Overcoming strategies
- Excessive bureaucracies/administrative procedures in terms of application	Prepared application packages - Typed a general letter and edited the address of the addressees
Problem of venue	Convenience of interviewee
Difficulty to coordinate interviews with some participants	- Jotted down relevant points - Strategically brought them on track

CONCLUSION

“I therefore argue that despite the existence of numerous publications on universal guidelines for conducting fieldwork, there is no rigid rule as different: situations, encounters, power relations and realities call for an adaptation of generic strategies to suit local context in the quest of collecting meaningful data” (Vuban, 2016).

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THANKYOU!!!

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