

## Research ethics and fieldwork in an authoritarian context, HÖS007F

PhD course 3 credits, elective in the PhD in East and South-East Asian Studies, included in the Graduate School in Asian Studies, also open to other PhD students.

The course expects students to already be familiar with the ethical and legal framework in the Swedish and European context. It focuses on the special ethical issues that can emerge when doing research in or on authoritarian societies. The course addresses the different ethical issues that different methods, topics and countries can give rise to. The course focuses both on digital methods and fieldwork. It for example deals with issues related to surveillance and security of researchers, research collaborators and informants. It furthermore includes how one evaluates risk in a changing environment and how one navigates so-called red lines. The course also discusses how one deals with the psychological pressure that one can experience when studying difficult topics and in difficult situations. Furthermore, the course discusses how one balances risk and academic transparency when it comes to the sharing of research data and disseminating of results.

Obligatory literature 214 pages, plus ca 150 pages of relevant selected readings depending on the student's own research area and/or country focus.

### *Obligatory readings*

Glasius Marlies, et al., (2018), *Research, Ethics and Risk in the Authoritarian Field*, Cham: Springer, 122 pages, Open access book, 317 SEK.

Greitens Sheena Chestnut and Rory Truex (2019), "Repressive Experiences among China Scholars", *The China Quarterly*, 242, 349–375.

Grimm Jannis J. et al. (2020), *Safer Field Research in the Social Sciences*, Los Angeles: Sage. 149 pages, open access book at LU, 422 SEK.

Grimm, Jannis J. (2022), "The Mixed Blessing of Digital Fieldwork: Digital Security and Ethical Dilemmas of Remote Research during and after the Pandemic," *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Vol. 20, no. 2, 33-37.

Kara, Helen and Su-ming Khoo (2020) "How the Pandemic Has Transformed Research Methods and Ethics: 3 Lessons." <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/10/26/how-the-pandemic-has-transformed-research-methods-and-ethics-3-lessons-from-33-rapid-responses/>

Koehler, Kevin (2022), "Managing Uncertainty: How Risk Assessment Can Empower Field Research," *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Vol. 20, no. 2, 29-33.

Lust, Ellen and Isabell Schierenbeck (2022), "Lessons for Safer Fieldwork Practices from the Covid Pandemic," *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Vol. 20, no. 2, 25-28.

## *Selected readings*

150 pages depending on topic and country.

Alpermann, Björn (2022), "Ethics in Social Science Research on China," *Made in China*, <https://madeinchinajournal.com/2022/06/27/ethics-in-social-science-research-on-china/>

Bestor, Theodore C., Patricia G. Steinhoff, Victoria Lyon Bestor (2003), *Doing Fieldwork in Japan*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press

Brooten, Lisa, and Rosalie Metro (2014), "Thinking about Ethics in Burma Research," *Journal of Burma Studies* 18, no. 1 (2014): 1-22.

Heimer, Maria and Stig Thøgersen, eds. (2006) *Doing Fieldwork in China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Huotari, Mikko, Jurgen Ruland, Judith Schlehe eds. (2014), *Methodology and research practice in southeast Asian studies*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Konning, Martin, Birgit Meyer, Annelies Moors, Peter Pels (2019), "Guidelines for anthropological research: Data management, ethics, and integrity," *Ethnography* Vol. 20(2) 170–174.

Kottmann, Nora, Cornelia Reiher eds. (2020), *Studying Japan: handbook of research designs, fieldwork and methods*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.

Liu, Hong Yu (2022), "Reflections on Conducting Fieldwork under Digital Surveillance: Investigating Labour Politics in China's Tech Industry," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 52:1, 152-162.

Lunn, Jenny (2014), *Fieldwork in the Global South: Ethical Challenges and Dilemmas*, Routledge, London.

Morgenbesser, Lee, and Meredith L. Weiss (2018), "Survive and Thrive: Field Research in Authoritarian Southeast Asia," *Asian Studies Review*, 42:3, 385-403.

Pearce, Jenny and Nicholas Loubere (2017), "Under Threat: Working in Dangerous Environment," in *Understanding Global Development Research: Fieldwork Issues, Experiences, and Reflections*, eds. Gordon Crawford, Lena J. Kruckenberg, Nicholas Loubere, Rosemary Morgon, Sage, pp. 155-176.

Reny, Marie (2016), "Authoritarianism as a Research Constraint: Political Scientists in China." *Social Science Quarterly* 97 (4): 909–922.

Schneider, Mindi, Elizabeth Lord, and Jessica Wilczak (2020), "We, Too: Contending with the Sexual Politics of Fieldwork in China," *Gender, Place & Culture*, 28:4, 519-540.

Svensson, Marina (2006), "Ethical dilemmas: balancing distance with involvement," in Heimer, Maria and Stig Thøgersen, eds. (2006) *Doing Fieldwork in China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 262-280.

Svensson, Marina (2017), “The Networked China Researcher: Challenges and Possibilities in the Social Media Age,” *Asiascape: Digital Asia*, 4, no 1-2, pp. 76-102.

Turner Sarah eds. (2014), *Red Stamps and Gold Stars: Fieldwork Dilemmas in Upland Socialist Asia*, UBS Press.

Zhang, Tianyu (2022), “Media ethnography in China—ethics, access and interviews in a non-Western context,” *Global Media Journal*, 12(1), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22032/dbt.53028>

Zimmer, Michael, Katharina Kinder-Kurlanda eds (2017), *Internet research ethics for the social age: new challenges, cases, and contexts*, New York: Peter Lang.

Web resources

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/fieldresearch/recent-posts/page/2/>