



berlin graduate school
muslim cultures and societies

Post-field II: Conversation

Workshop held online via Webex (access information will be shared with the participants shortly before the workshop)

Organiser and mentor:

Dr. Rosa Cordillera A. Castillo (HU-IAAW)

Schedule:

July 15, 1-5 pm

Post-field II: Conversation aims to provide a venue for doctoral students coming back from their fieldwork to transition into writing, through a guided conversation on research experiences and dilemmas. It is being offered in light of suggestions from previous cohorts on the necessity of a mechanism in which doctoral students are able to share and thresh out the various issues they faced while doing their research, in an atmosphere that is relaxed and supportive.

During the session, each participant will be given time to share their experiences and the dilemmas they encountered during their research and after returning from the field. The discussion will then proceed by tackling the issues that were raised in the sharing. Everybody is encouraged to give their views, advise, and opinion regarding the experiences of their colleagues.

There will not be any formal lectures nor required readings. We aim to maximize the time for the sharing of experiences, dilemmas, and issues, and giving advice. And while the conversation style will be the main format, it will be guided by the following topics which will also serve as the guide for the participant's sharing and short paper (see below):

1. Relevance of original set of research questions after coming back from fieldwork (e.g. still applicable? will be modified? will be completely changed? etc.)
2. Problems encountered with the data gathering process (e.g. data gathering tools difficult to implement or irrelevant, insufficient training in the method chosen, difficulty of access, no permit to conduct research, unavailability of materials, etc.)
3. Ethical dilemmas faced while conducting research (e.g. problems with free and prior informed consent, how to introduce the research project to interlocutors, how to conduct interviews on sensitive topics, how to maintain anonymity of people and places if necessary, how to write or not write about sensitive information, how to securely store data, etc.)
4. Issues with positionality (how did your gender, nationality, religion, ethnicity, class, and relative position of power impact your research, the questions you asked, and your framing and analysis?)
5. Security issues (what were the security problems, if any, that you faced while conducting research and how did you deal with them?)
6. Emotional and personal problems (e.g. "secondary trauma," being shunned in the field, difficulties of doing "home" fieldwork, balancing personal and academic life, issues with adjusting to the research setting, supervisory issues, etc.)
7. Other dilemmas that you encountered

Participants:

Doctoral fellows who conducted fieldwork

Format:

Guided conversation with a short paper as output

Requirements:

Each participant will be required to submit a short paper by **June 30**, containing the following:

1. Title and short abstract of the research, including information on research methods employed;
2. Research experiences and dilemmas - please use the seven topics above as a guide

Participants can eventually use this short paper in their methodology chapter/section. It can also help them figure out the next phase of their research.

Credit Points:

0,5

Application:

The deadline for application is **June 24** (via e-mail to office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de)

Contact:

For questions, please contact Dr. Castillo at rosa.castillo@hu-berlin.de