

Research Ethics – Reflection Sheet

To be completed and peer reviewed in dialogue before fieldwork

This document by the German Anthropological Association is based on the '[Frankfurt Declaration' of Research Ethics in Social and Cultural Anthropology](#) and on the Association's Guidelines on Research Ethics. In combination with the two aforementioned documents, it is meant to be used by anthropologists before starting their research in the context of a consultation session with supervisors or a peer interlocutor. The reflection sheet remains a confidential document between the participants of the consultation session. If needed, the confirmation sheet (p.7) only is meant to be handed over to ethical committees.

Researcher		
Name	Contact details	Field destinations
Discussed in dialogue with ...		
Name	Contact details	Professional relationship with researcher <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Supervisor ()▪ Peer-to-peer () If possible, your colleague should have knowledge of the region where the research will be conducted.

Since this form is completed and discussed in a peer-to-peer dialogue before fieldwork, the answers given do only reflect the researcher's project plans and information on his/her research site(s) *at the date of signature*. It is understood that the process of doing anthropological research as based on ethnographic methodology often requires situative adjustments. In this case, the ethical self-reflexivity encouraged by working on this document should inform ethical decisions which need to be made on the spot. Researchers are also advised to consult the [Ethical Declaration of the German Anthropological Association](#) (GAA) before and, if necessary, during research.

Participants in the peer-to-peer dialogue commit themselves to maintaining its confidentiality.

Where it's not feasible to answer any of the questions at this (point in) time, please specify the reasons why.

Title of research project
List of field sites

Duration and dates of field research
Collaboration with local universities, research institutes and/or individual scholars

Description of the project
Please state the scholarly relevance of your project. Describe briefly your methodology.

Description of participants and research partners
Please describe your main selection criteria with regard to the participants in your research (e.g. age, gender, education, profession). Please state if and in what way the participants' ability to consent may be compromised. Also specify how participants will be identified and approached to take part in your project. If co-researchers (or fieldwork assistants) are conducting any part of the consent process, indicate their experience and/or qualifications for doing so.

Will any of your participants be children and/or persons characterized through an exceptional vulnerability (i.e. persons who are locally considered to be impaired, disabled or not contractually capable)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>If yes, please provide information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By which criteria are they defined as children and/or as exceptionally vulnerable persons within their specific socio-cultural context? Regarding children, this question is informed by the fact that the social age of adolescence and adulthood varies from country to country and even within countries. ▪ Are you aware of the existing legal regulations on doing research with children and/or exceptionally vulnerable persons both in Germany and in the country of your research? How do you address potential discrepancies between these regulations in your research? ▪ How are you planning to obtain consent while conducting research that involves children and/or exceptionally vulnerable persons (e.g. via parents' or guardians' consent)? 		

Unequal social relationships affecting the research
Outline as far as possible at this stage, what kind(s) of unequal relationships exist or might emerge between you and the participants in your project. Unequal relationships may refer to an unequal distribution of power (due to, for example, age, gender, social status) and access to resources. Also state how you will deal with the ethical issues arising from these inequalities.

By taking part in the research, will participants (the researcher/s included) be at risk of prosecution?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>If yes</u> , justify why incriminating data are sought in the research, and how risks to participants will be minimized.		

Will you obtain informed consent from participants before participation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>If yes</u> , please describe the process including whether it is oral or written.		
<u>If no</u> , please give a justification for why not.		

How will your project data be handled?
Describe the form of data handling and storage throughout the project: (a) at collection stage; (b) when used or disclosed; (c) when stored; and (d) when destroyed. Up until destruction, be clear about stating whether data will be non-anonymised (i.e. openly linked to the individuals who provided them), pseudo-anonymised (i.e. potentially identifiable), or completely anonymised (i.e. non-identifiable).
Do you plan to address the publication of your data among your interlocutors and do you expect potential challenges in this regard?

What are the major ethical issues connected with your research and what steps will you take to address them?

Please do not answer ‘none’.

Anticipated participant pathways through the research

Can you anticipate other potential risks or ill effects for participants during your research, and if yes, how could these be minimized?

Additional issues and matters to be taken account of during research which came up in the discussion between researcher and colleague.

Confirmation

Researcher
Name
Title of research project
List of field sites
Duration and dates of field research

Researcher:

I have completed the research ethics reflection sheet relevant to my fieldwork. The information provided by me is correct to the best of my knowledge at the present stage.

Place and date:

Signature:

Discussed in dialogue with ...	
Name	Professional relationship with researcher
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Supervisor ()■ Peer-to-peer ()

Supervisor or peer interlocutor:

I confirm that I have discussed in detail with the researcher the potential ethical issues related to his/her research. The information provided in the DGSKA form reflects this discussion.

Place and date:

Signature: