Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: An Ethnographic Study of Trail Running, Feminism and Development in Nepal

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Affiliation: Durham University

Funder: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

Template: ESRC Template

Project abstract:
  This project is one year of ethnographic fieldwork with the Mira Rai Initiative based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Mira Rai Initiative is an NGO which provides training in the sport of trail running for marginalised and underprivileged young women. The methods for conducting this research are: participant-observation and interviewing. Participant-observation will entail joining in the athletic training of the group. Unstructured, in-depth interviews will be undertaken in the latter third of the research year on the basis of rapport established during the participant-observation. Interviews will be with the athletes who participate in the Mira Rai Initiative as well as its organisers and coaches. The research is expected to uncover the ways in which sport can be used to influence social change. The Mira Rai Initiative has the stated aim of encouraging 'women's empowerment' in Nepal through supporting talented runners with sports training as well as English-language learning and other skills training.

ID: 93482

Start date: 01-05-2022

End date: 01-05-2023

Last modified: 20-03-2022

Grant number / URL: https://www.ninedtp.ac.uk/will-lloyd-ethnographic-study-trail-running-feminism-development-nepal/

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Assessment of existing data

Provide an explanation of the existing data sources that will be used by the research project, with references

There have been no research projects conducted prior to this one on the Mira Rai Initiative and therefore there is no existing data to use in this research. Statistical data to provide broader context for my study will be consulted.

Provide an analysis of the gaps identified between the currently available and required data for the research

Statistical data on Nepali society will be used to provide context for my study, however, the primary data will be original, based on an ethnographic study of the Mira Rai Initiative.

Information on new data

Provide information on the data that will be produced or accessed by the research project

I will collect data through participant-observation and in-depth interviews. I will record events by taking field notes and will use a field recorder to record conversations, subject to participants' permission. Interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed.

Quality assurance of data

Describe the procedures for quality assurance that will be carried out on the data collected at the time of data collection, data entry, digitisation and data checking.

When translating transcribed audio from interviews I will consult a more experienced speaker of Nepali when meaning is ambiguous or I am unsure of the correctness of my translation, to ensure that respondent's intended meanings are recorded faithfully and not misconstrued. If the ambiguity is not related to language and it is an important to the research output, I will seek clarification from the interviewee, where possible.

Backup and security of data

Describe the data security and backup procedures you will adopt to ensure the data and metadata are securely stored during the lifetime of the project.

Data will be secured on a password-protected laptop and backed up onto two passworded cloud drives (iCloud and Google). Data is encrypted before upload to cloud drives. Data will also be stored on a physical backup hard drive. Different passwords are used for different services and are stored in a passworded vault provided by Bitwarden.

Management and curation of data

Outline your plans for preparing, organising and documenting data.

When the data has been transcribed it will be formatted for readability. It will be organised into sections with subheadings. There will be a hyperlinked table of contents so that readers can jump to different sections. An accompanying audio file will be made available. Both the text and audio will be converted into different file formats so that they are accessible from different operating systems which the informants may use. Audio of conversations recorded during participant-observation will be edited so that the relevant sections can be listened to easily and empty sound not relevant to the data will be cut out.

Difficulties in data sharing and measures to overcome these

Identify any potential obstacles to sharing your data, explain which and the possible measures you can apply to overcome these.

Interview transcriptions and audio will only be shared with the specific interviewee concerned. The same applies to conversations recorded during participant-observation.

Consent, anonymisation and strategies to enable further re-use of data

Make explicit mention of the planned procedures to handle consent for data sharing for data obtained from human participants, and/or how to anonymise data, to make sure that data can be made available and accessible for future scientific research.

When the data is used in the final PhD dissertation or in any other text or publicly available material relating to the PhD, informants will have the option of using pseudonyms and any data (such as the names of villages or schools) which makes them identifiable can be changed so as to retain their anonymity.

Copyright and intellectual property ownership

State who will own the copyright and IPR of any new data that you will generate.

The researcher will own the copyright on the data generated.

Responsibilities

Outline responsibilities for data management within research teams at all partner institutions

The researcher (Will Lloyd) will be responsible for the data management tasks outlined in this plan.

Preparation of data for sharing and archiving

Are the plans for preparing and documenting data for sharing and archiving with the UK Data Service appropriate?

Data will be kept by the researcher but it will not be made available in primary form for use after the end of the research project.

Is there evidence that data will be well documented during research to provide highquality contextual information and/or structured metadata for secondary users?

The data will be contextualised by the researcher in the dissertation and journal articles. This contextualised information will be available for future researchers to use in their related work.

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