

## Resources on COVID and field research, and/or social media and field research

Compiled by Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea  
updated 23 Feb 2021

**N.b.** In reviewing these and other materials, a potential confusion has become clear to us—that people who reference “online research” sometimes mean the internet or social media as a research setting and sometimes mean them as a research “tool.” It’s important to keep this in mind in looking at these resources in relation to your intended project.

**Call for Papers:** Deadline extended for a few days [even though it doesn’t say so here]; contact Dr. **Laura Cleton** <[Laura.Cleton@uantwerpen.be](mailto:Laura.Cleton@uantwerpen.be)> if you want to submit something:

<https://connect.apsanet.org/documents/call-for-contributions-methods-corner-apsa-migration-citizenship-newsletter/>

**Sarah Parkinson** sent us these links on COVID and research and on social media:

1. from Sarah and Milli Lake’s ARC [Advancing Conflict Research] program:

<https://advancingconflictresearch.com/researchincrisis>

2. the SSRC series on research and Covid:

<https://items.ssrc.org/category/covid-19-and-the-social-sciences/social-research-and-insecurity/>

3. on social media:

[digital ethnography collective at LSE](#) [links to a twitter account]

[https://zoeglatt.com/?page\\_id=545](https://zoeglatt.com/?page_id=545)

**Michelle Weitzel** sent this link to a session held in November on “Field research in the Middle East during and after the pandemic” which is applicable to other areas:

<https://ensemble.brandeis.edu/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/Et72AsBy/view>

Peter Krause, Boston College, political science  
Golnar Nikpour, Dartmouth, history  
Discussant: Hayal Akarsu, Brandeis, anthropology

From **Robin Turner**:

MacLean, Lauren; Rahman, Nabila; Turner, Robin; and Corbett, Jack. 2021. Disrupted fieldwork: Navigating innovation, redesign, and ethics during an ongoing pandemic. Qualitative & Multi-Method Research: 18 pp. 1-8 (2). <https://zenodo.org/record/4046546>

That article is based on “Conducting Fieldwork Under COVID Constraints: Interpretive Approaches and Ethnography,” Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research 2020 webinar recorded Tuesday, July 21, 2020:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeOBLokYRnE>

Sociologists, critical communications, and digital humanities scholars have been doing online interpretive and ethnographic work for a while. Exemplars include ...:

Brock, André L. 2019. *Distributed blackness: African American cybercultures*. New York: New York University Press.

Cottom, Tressie McMillan. 2017. *Lower Ed: the Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*. New York: The New Press.

Daniels, Jessie, Karen Gregory, and Tressie McMillan Cottom, eds. 2016. *Digital sociologies*. Bristol (UK): Policy Press.

Jackson, Sarah J., Moya Bailey, and Brooke Foucault Welles. 2020. *#hashtagactivism: networks of race and gender justice*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Risam, Roopika. 2019. *New digital worlds: postcolonial digital humanities in theory, praxis, and pedagogy*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.

From **Lahra Smith**:

A few colleagues and I have actually been working on a website called [Digital Fieldwork](#) and with her permission, Prof. Lupton's entire bibliography is here, searchable, as well as many other sources. I will make sure to add these others. This site also has some original reflection pieces on doing "digital fieldwork" and **we warmly invite colleagues here who have done this work previously or who are making the shift and would like to write an original piece or contribute in another form (photos, poetry, podcasts, etc) to contribute**. There is a "contribute" button to suggest sources we are missing.

From **Milli Lake**:

"...twitter thread on digital ethnography and Instagram snowball sampling which I found interesting: <https://twitter.com/colleenwood/status/1362431484167094283> "

Milli has also co-authored a couple of pieces that are relevant to the discussion:

Bond, Kanisha D., Milli Lake, and Sarah E. Parkinson. 2020. Lessons from Conflict Studies on Research during the Coronavirus Pandemic. *Items* (July 2). Social Science Research Council. <https://items.ssrc.org/covid-19-and-the-social-sciences/social-research-and-insecurity/lessons-from-conflict-studies-on-research-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Lake, Milli and Sarah E. Parkinson. 2017. The ethics of fieldwork preparedness. *Political Violence at a Glance* (June 5).

<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2017/06/05/the-ethics-of-fieldwork-preparedness/>

From **Ed Schatz**:

<https://twitter.com/SchatzEd/status/1329195338998181891?s=20>

Includes these 2:

Doing Ethnography Remotely. Stanford University, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences:

<https://iriss.stanford.edu/doing-ethnography-remotely>

Note: Ed says that of these interviews, the one with Dr. Yarimar Bonilla “is particularly relevant to political scientists.”

Bonilla, Yarimar and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. #Ferguson: Digital protest, hashtag ethnography, and the racial politics of social media in the United States. *American Ethnologist* 42 (1), 4–17.

In addition, a couple of things that have crossed **our desk**:

Lupton, Deborah, ed. 2020. Doing fieldwork in a pandemic (crowd-sourced document).

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cGjGABB2h2qbduTqfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/edit?ts=5e88ae0a#>

Howlett, Marnie. 2021. Looking at the ‘field’ through a Zoom lens: Methodological reflections on conducting online research during a global pandemic. *Qualitative Research* 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794120985691>

van Baalen, Sebastian. 2018. ‘Google wants to know your location’: The ethical challenges of fieldwork in the digital age. *Research Ethics* 14 (4): 1–17.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016117750312> [open source]

And from **Jeremy Hunsinger**:

“There is also [Http://aoir.org](http://aoir.org) the association of internet researchers which is 21+ years old...[and has] a long history in doing successful digital research and fieldwork.”