

Ethics and Safeguarding OVERVIEW – Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts

Below are Ethics Statements from the Project Application

SUM FROM MAIN JES FORM:

Ethics, Safeguarding and Risk

The Project strives to develop ethical approaches to creation, denial, destruction or misrepresentation in archiving practice with a team experienced in working in diverse, fragile and vulnerable contexts with ethical and equitable practice. Ethical issues will be overseen by PI and Project's 'Ethics, Safeguarding & Reporting' group, including disclosure of research to potential participants; achieving informed consent for use of any non-public archive; sensitivity to and respect for local lives, customs and practices; guarantee of anonymity of vulnerable persons. Risk assessments will draw on local Co-Is, NGOs, UN contacts & FCO information. Risk here is also related to complex meanings of place and emotional trauma that contested histories or futures may raise. We adhere to ethics codes, as per AHRC guidelines, IASFM & EU Commission codes for working with refugees & asylum-seekers & of Co-Is & PI's HEIs (www.exeter.ac.uk/cgr/researchethics/codesandpolicies/).

FROM CASE FOR SUPPORT:

Ethics, Safeguarding & Risk: The Project strives to develop ethical and sensitive approaches to creation, denial, destruction or misrepresentation in archiving practices and of cultural heritage and the spaces within which these are performed. All research will comply with AHRC guidelines. The PI, Co-Is, their teams and partners have extensive experience of ethical and equitable practice in working in diverse and vulnerable contexts. They are well informed on codes of conduct, risk management, and safeguarding in their localities and adhere to ethics codes of the AHRC, their HEIs, IASFM & EU Commission codes for working with refugees and asylum-seekers. Issues of ethics will be overseen by the PI and the project's 'Ethics, Safeguarding and Reporting' group. Ethics approval will be sought from U. of Exeter's [Research Ethics and Governance Team](#) and Ethics Committees at the partnering institutions. All research will need to be covered by Exeter's [Ethics Policy](#).

Recommendations and codes of conduct will be followed by all project activities, including in Labs and Commissions. Since our proposal spans institutions, contexts and geographies and tackles sensitive subjects often related to urban and social violence, it is crucial to our research integrity that ethical codes are included within each local context and research group. Hence, Exeter's Ethics Policy will be reviewed in-line with Ethics Codes of other team institutions, at the start of the project and updated ([UCL's Research Ethics Committee](#); UofA CSM's [Code of Practice on Research Ethics](#); BM's [Code of Good Research Practice](#); Museum Association's [Code of Ethics for Museums](#); Carleton U. [Research Ethics Board](#); BSR's [Research Ethics Policy](#); Stellenbosch U. Human [Research Ethics Committee](#); AUB's [Human Research Protection Program](#) and Institutional Review Board U. of Ghana's [Ethics Committee for the Humanities](#); SMUC's Research Ethics Committee (XX)).

When dealing with histories of violence, whether directly with participants through field research or in archival repositories ethical concerns are paramount. The team will take utmost care to avoid exposing vulnerable populations to any form of harm or trauma and will follow [Ethics Guidelines](#) of

the UK Association of Social Anthropologists. When research involves active participation of local communities, or sharing of potentially sensitive information, full consent will be sought from all participants, who will be presented with clear written and verbal statements in their local languages explaining: project objectives; how data will be collected, used, visualized and stored; and strategies through which it will be disseminated prior to any publication or study. Accompanying consent forms will ensure participants can withdraw at any point. Anonymization for vulnerable persons will be guaranteed through the removal of personal identifiers across all stages of the research projects.

Since our research includes places with security risks. Ongoing risk assessments will be conducted in all locations based on regular consultation with local actors, NGOs, the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#), and the UN. In order to minimize risk to researchers and staff, no research visits will be made to areas where UK government (a) advises against travel and (b) against all but essential travel. Visits to areas deemed to pose a risk (if any) will be accompanied by local guides and every effort will be made to ensure the safety of researchers across religious and cultural norms.

Additional statements on Ethics from Case for Support:

Develop Equitable Partnerships: Our first priority is to set up governance frameworks and co-designed project principles underpinned by robust ethics, equality and diversity protocols, which act to strengthen the team (incl. Advisory Board) and buttress local networks linked to the main project.

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It is part of the project's remit to review institutional practices and engender institutional policy change in relation to diversity and equality, (including gender), safeguarding and ethics.

FROM DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN:

6. Ethical and Legal Considerations

6a. For any data released on the website or used in the project's research outputs, participants will sign a Contributor Release Agreement in which they will agree that the project has permission to access, reuse and archive that contribution for the purposes described. The majority of the project's data will be archived by the participants themselves. Where appropriate and agreed, participants will be fully credited on the website and in the print outputs of the project. The project's plans will be submitted to Exeter's [Research Ethics and Governance Team](#) and Ethics Committees at the partnering institutions at the start of the funded period to ensure that we comply with the appropriate procedures (for details see the 'Ethics, Safeguarding and Risk' section).

6b. We do not foresee legal or ethical issues in releasing or storing the data, as all sensitive data will be anonymised or restricted (as appropriate) and the Contributor Release Agreement will state clearly how the data participants contribute to the project is being stored and released. These aspects will all be resolved in discussion with the Ethics Committees, and no data will be stored or released without the explicit permission of the participants.

FROM PATHWAYS TO IMPACT:

6. Building Institutional Capacity across the Partnership: The long-term impact of the Network Plus is increased institutional capacity across the partnership to develop and implement codes of shared operational best practices. This includes collaboratively developing tools and resources to manage

concerns and agendas associated with ethics, safeguarding, due diligence and risk management, and ensuring equality and diversity. The Imagining Futures Network through its Ethics and Reporting group will carry out a critical review of institutional policies concerning these working practices within institutions, collaborating partners and the AHRC. While it cannot be guaranteed institutions will adopt our recommendations, we will provide model policy documents for consideration (adapted to ensure they are context-sensitive), and we will pilot their application within the project itself, with a view to engendering best practice. Co-design and co-production of knowledge, in the Labs in the first instance, with follow up gatherings that bring in additional stakeholders from the outset, will maximise the likelihood of buy-in and thus potential for uptake as a result. The long-term impact of such activity will be the increased knowledge and confidence of all institutions across the partnership to conduct ethically appropriate and context sensitive research with minimal likelihood of financial and reputational risk. This will also benefit the conduct of future projects collaborating organisations will be involved in.

Gender Equality Document – See attached.