Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTuuli

Title: Becoming through plants: Ayahuasca rituals and ethical self-making among the indigenous peoples of northeastern Peru

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Funder: Kone Foundation

Template: General Finnish DMP template

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Project abstract:

Ayahuasca rituals are the purposeful drinking of the ayahuasca psychoactive brew to induce strong visionary and bodily experiences. My objective is to study the role of this ritual in the formation of ethical subjectivities, i.e. how people learn what to consider "good to be", or "ought to do" in a particular context, and further, examine how these subjectivities are related to local notions of wellbeing. For this purpose, I will carry a year-long ethnographic study (January 2022-2023) in the rainforest of Peru, at two distinct locations where ayahuasca rituals are prominent cultural practices of self-cultivation for indigenous peoples: Santa Maria de Nieva (Amazonas), a small town of the Awajún people; and Takiwasi (San Martin), a center for treating substance abuse disorders that employs people with indigenous background (Quechua-Lamista).

I will use multi-sited ethnography for elaborating on the meanings and motivations that lead people in indigenous contexts to take part in ayahuasca rituals, and how the indigenous perspective is negotiated in different social settings for purposes of ethical self-making. I will gather data through field notes, interviews (at least 10 thematic, 20 semi-structured, and 20 structured), audio recordings, photographs, and ethnographic surveys in paper and digital forms. Complementary data will be gathered from local archives and relevant virtual instances (social media).

ID: 17680

Start date: 14-01-2022

End date: 20-12-2024

Last modified: 02-12-2021

Grant number / URL: 201803518

Copyright information:

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1. General description of the data

1.1 What kinds of data is your research based on? What data will be collected, produced or reused? What file formats will the data be in? Additionally, give a rough estimate of the size of the data produced/collected.

Data type	Source	Format	Size
Interviews: 10 thematic, 20 semi-structured, and 20 structured. Transcribed and translated	Produced in the project	Doc, Docx	3 GB
Audio interview recordings, soundscape recordings	Produced in the project	Mp3	10 GB
Photography and video recording	Produced in the project	JPEG, WAV	15 GB
Field notes and field diary	Produced in the project	Doc, Docx	3 GB
Complimentary data: local archives, virtual instances	External sources	Doc, Docx, Mp3, WAV, URL	5 GB
Ethnographic surveys depending on applicability	Produced in the project	Doc, Docx, .xlsx, .r	5 GB

1.2 How will the consistency and quality of data be controlled?

- All data will be collected and managed by me. Coding, storage, and elaboration of meta-data will facilitate the identification and navigation of the different bodies of data.
- Triangulation between data sets will complement research premises. Due to the qualitative nature of the data, flexibility and depth are integrated into the research design.
- Monthly meetings with the main supervisor, Dr. Toomas Gross, will reinforce and guarantee the application of instruments along with a quality assessment of the data. Additional meetings with the second supervisor and research group further develop this aspect.

2. Ethical and legal compliance

2.1 What legal issues are related to your data management? (For example, GDPR and other legislation affecting data processing.)

- Before sharing any preliminary findings and field notes, all data will be coded and anonymized for other researchers to access and review only when necessary. Removal of personal identifiers will be done for securing the integrity of the participants.
- All research proceedings are done following TENK guidelines: https://tenk.fi/en/advice-and-materials/guidelines-ethical-review-human-sciences
- It is of great importance for the success of the project to compromise on this aspect, because the trust of the informants needs to be upheld, given the sensitive character of the experiences they go through with the rituals.
- Suggestions by research participants for keepin identifiers will be taken into account. Default protocol of research project is for anonymization.
- I comply with GDPR regulations on personal data management.

2.2 How will you manage the rights of the data you use, produce and share?

- The data produced in the project is ethnographic and qualitative, which makes me the direct responsible for how it is handled, shared, and reported.
- The open science principle of "as open as possible, and as closed as necessary" will be applied for sharing datasets with the supervisor and research team.
- The main sharing of the data will take form through research outputs in the form of the doctoral dissertation, journal articles, and science communication initiatives (i.e., blogs, podcasts)

3. Documentation and metadata

3.1 How will you document your data in order to make it findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable for you and others? What kind of metadata standards, README files or other documentation will you use to help others to understand and use your data?

- Main documentation and classification will be done through .doc, .xlsx, and .txt spreadsheets. Zotero bibliography manager will be used to write memos and code preliminary notes that emerge from the data using the Zettelkasten Method. This will never be done with direct identifiers to the dataset.
- Additionally, field notes are of particular usefulness in the development of my ethnographic research, as they help in providing an inventory of different observed/qualitative material for its posterior preliminary coding into memos, families, and superfamilies, increasingly encompassing the data within topics of relevance.
- This approach is important for the present project, as it allows to discern between different levels of abstraction and contextualization for constructing an adequate representation across field sites. Following data will be gathered with the previously mentioned instruments.

4. Storage and backup during the research project

4.1 Where will your data be stored, and how will the data be backed up?

- Personal computer will serve as an immediate source for data storage.
- All digital data files will be kept in password-protected folders and placed in password-protected hardware. USB flash drives and external hard drives will provide a layer an added layer of security.
- Physical data copies and storage devices will be kept in locked cabinets. Backup security copies will be stored in the Umpio secure database storage platform of the university weekly. Access to the virtual environment is protected by Microsoft Authenticator, linked to my mobile phone and Ipad.

4.2 Who will be responsible for controlling access to your data, and how will secured access be controlled?

- Since it is my doctoral research project, I am the sole responsible for access to the data. Feedback from my main supervisor will provide further recommendations for data security to what already has been mentioned.

5. Opening, publishing and archiving the data after the research project

5.1 What part of the data can be made openly available or published? Where and when will the data, or its metadata, be made available?

- Currently, there has been an explosion of research and resources related to the potential medicinal use of psychoactive substances, ethnographic explorations of how neo-shamanic centers use it for healing and tourism purposes, among others. Given this interest and following the university's policy of Open Science, I will make available my data sets in the university's digital secure database, while the metadata will be available in Zotero. This will be done only after all direct and indirect identifiers have been removed from my data set.
- However, the data will be more widely available in Open Access journals and science communication activities.

5.2 Where will data with long-term value be preserved, and for how long?

- Upon evaluation and based on recommendations from the supervisor and research team, data can be planned to be scheduled for longer storage at the university database. Hard and primary copies of the data will be in possession of the researcher for 5 years, with the condition of extending this period according to the development of research lines or prospective post-doctoral research on a related topic.

6. Data management responsibilities and resources

6.1 Who (for example role, position, and institution) will be responsible for data management?

- As already stipulated, being a doctoral research project, the primary responsibility for data management corresponds to me. Additional layers of security and secure storage of backups are also included in this task. The University of Helsinki provides institutional support for this to become effective.

6.2 What resources will be required for your data management procedures to ensure that the data can be opened and preserved according to FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)?

- Data storage platforms provided by the university and accessible metadata through license free-software will facilitate the application of FAIR principles. Additional support and searchability capacities will be expanded through public engagement outside academia. Research outputs in the form of the doctoral dissertation and journal articles will bring further attention and availability to the dataset.