Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTuuli

Title: Between Two Worlds: The Coping Strategies of Ukrainian Social Scientists During War

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Funder: The Research Council of Finland (former The Academy of Finland)

Template: Data Management Plan - Research Council of Finland

Project abstract:

The war in Ukraine has catalysed significant disruptions within the academic sector, particularly impacting social sciences. This research aims to thoroughly examine the effects of this conflict on Ukrainian social scientists, focusing on both those who have remained in Ukraine and those who have relocated to Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland). The study explores the coping strategies and mechanisms these academics utilize to navigate the multifaceted challenges presented by the war.
Employing a mixed-methods approach, this project will gather both qualitative and quantitative data through surveys distributed to social scientists in universities, research institutes, and governmental bodies across Ukraine and Nordic countries. Additionally, in-depth interviews will be conducted to delve deeper into the personal and professional impacts of displacement, with a comparative analysis of the experiences of those who have stayed versus those who have moved.
Methodologically, the project will integrate discourse analysis, resilience studies, migration studies, and digital ethnography to assess the impacts holistically. Digital ethnography will be used to analyze the digital communications and interactions among social scientists, providing deeper insights into how digital environments influence their coping mechanisms and social support systems. The analysis will also incorporate examination of contemporary academic publications and, where possible, autobiographical accounts from affected scientists. The outcomes of this study are expected to offer valuable insights into the resilience and adaptive capacities of social scientists under duress. Furthermore, the findings will provide empirical evidence to guide the development of policies aimed at supporting the academic community during and after crises.

ID: 26676

Start date: 01-05-2025

End date: 31-12-2027

Last modified: 18-12-2024

Grant number / URL: 366283

Copyright information:

Between Two Worlds: The Coping Strategies of Ukrainian Social Scientists During War

1. General description of 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.

The study will collect new data as follows:

- **Survey Data:** Data will be collected from Ukrainian social scientists who have remained in Ukraine or relocated to Nordic countries, using structured surveys. The surveys will collect demographic data, professional impact assessments, and personal experiences during the war. This data will be collected electronically and stored initially in spreadsheet format (.xlsx). The surveys will be anonymous, ensuring that participants' identities are not recorded. The target number of N=67 (47 academics in Ukraine and Finland + 20 academics in other Nordic countries).
- **Interview Data:** In-depth qualitative interviews will be conducted with selected participants from the survey. These interviews will be audio-recorded, with a target number of N=15. Each interview is expected to last approximately 40 minutes. The total amount of recorded material is estimated at 10 hours. All recordings will first be in audio format (.mp3) and then transcribed into Word files (.docx). The interviews will also be conducted anonymously to ensure confidentiality.
- **Digital Ethnography Data:** Observational data will be collected through digital ethnography methods, focusing on the online community "Ukraine Science Diaspora" in the Telegram application and their website [Ukraine Science Diaspora](). Data will be gathered through systematic observation at regular intervals and stored in digital formats suitable for qualitative analysis, such as photos, screenshots, and textual records. Specific thematic coding will be applied to analyze interactions and discourse within these platforms.
- **Scoping Review Data:** A scoping review will analyze approximately 30 articles relevant to the study's focus. The articles will be systematically collected from academic databases. This data will be summarized and stored in textual format (.docx) and tabular format (.xlsx).

Estimated Data Size

- Survey Data: Approximately 2 MB.
- Interview Data: Approximately 6 GB (audio recordings) and 3 MB (transcriptions).
- Digital Ethnography Data: Approximately 500 MB.
- Scoping Review Data: Approximately 1 MB.

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

Survey Data: Surveys will be designed and piloted to ensure clarity and relevance of questions. Regular checks will be performed to ensure the accuracy of data entry.

Interview Data: Interviewers will follow a structured interview guide to maintain consistency across participants. Audio recordings will be reviewed for clarity and quality. Any unclear recordings will be flagged for re-interviewing or excluded. Transcriptions will be double-checked for accuracy against the original audio recordings.

Digital Ethnography Data: Data will be collected systematically using predefined criteria and observation schedules. Screenshots and textual records will be reviewed to ensure they accurately reflect observed interactions.

Scoping Review Data: Articles will be selected based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria.

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.)

The research adheres to the EU's GDPR. Any processing of personal data will be limited to what is necessary for the research.

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

The project complies with the principles of the TENK (The Finnish National Board on Research Integrity) and the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

All participants of surveys and interviews will be informed about the purpose of the study, the measures taken to protect their anonymity, and their right to withdraw at any point without providing a reason. Informed consent will be negotiated either orally or in writing with all participants in the study. Data transcription will be performed by PI Dr. Oksana Domina.

Surveys will be administered through a secure platform approved by the University of Helsinki (https://elomake.helsinki.fi/).

For digital ethnography data, the following ethical considerations will be addressed:

- **Informed Consent in Online Spaces:** Explicit informed consent will be obtained when interacting directly with individuals in the Telegram group "Ukraine Science Diaspora" or through their website. Publicly available data, such as posts on public forums, will be treated in accordance with ethical guidelines for online research, ensuring no unnecessary intrusion into private spaces.
- **Anonymity and Privacy:** Efforts will be made to anonymize data collected from online interactions, including removing usernames, profile images, or any identifying information that could compromise privacy.
- **Transparency:** Participants in private groups will be informed about the researcher's presence, objectives, and intended use of the data.
- **Handling Sensitive Content:** Any potentially sensitive or harmful data encountered during digital ethnography will be treated with strict confidentiality and stored securely.
- **Adherence to Community Norms:** Observations will respect the norms and rules established within the online community "Ukraine Science Diaspora."

As scoping reviews analyze publicly available academic articles, ethical concerns are minimal. However, proper citations and respect for intellectual property rights will be strictly maintained.

Research data will be treated as confidential, and personal data will only be processed by the Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Domina. The University of Helsinki's ethical guidelines and the study's ethical approval protocols will guide the entire research process.

3. Documentation and metadata

3. How will you document your data in order to make the data 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?

The data will be documented using clear and systematic metadata practices:

- **Survey Data:** Variable descriptions and data dictionaries will accompany the .xlsx files to ensure clarity and reproducibility.
- **Interview Data:** A data table will document pseudonyms, interview dates, and key themes identified during transcription.
- **Digital Ethnography Data:** Metadata will include dates of data collection, platform descriptions, and coding categories.
- **Scoping Review Data:** A detailed log of the selected articles, their metadata (e.g., title, author, publication date, journal), and the extracted data (e.g., themes, methodologies, key findings) will be maintained in both textual and tabular formats.

The study will follow the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standards for social science research. Metadata will include study descriptions, methodologies, and data collection processes.

4. Storage and backup during the research project

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

All research data will be securely stored using the University of Helsinki password-protected P-station and other Databank services (e.g., OneDrive for Business, Team folders, or IDA) depending on the sensitivity of the data. Access to the data will be restricted and secured from unauthorized users.

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

The University of Helsinki provides robust data storage services with automated backups and data recovery options. Access to sensitive data will be monitored using the university's access log system. Only the PI, Dr. Domina, will have access to the raw data, with strict adherence to access control policies.

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?

Selected metadata and anonymised datasets will be made openly available in alignment with ethical and legal guidelines. Only non-sensitive and fully anonymised data, such as aggregated survey results or summary tables, will be shared to ensure participant confidentiality.
The metadata and data will be deposited in a trusted repository, such as the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) or the University of Helsinki's open data repository, following the conclusion of the study. The anticipated timeline for making the data available will be 6–12 months after the project ends, allowing sufficient time for data review and compliance checks.
An accompanying documentation file will include details about the dataset structure, collection methods, and potential limitations to facilitate reusability.

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

All data, including anonymised and sensitive data, will be securely preserved in the University of Helsinki's password-protected P-station for long-term preservation. The P-station ensures secure and monitored access, compliant with GDPR and institutional data management standards. Long-term preservation will follow FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable).

6. Data management responsibilities and resources

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

Dr. Domina, as the Principal Investigator, is responsible for overseeing all aspects of data management, including ethical compliance, storage, and sharing. The University of Helsinki's IT Services and Data Support staff will provide consultation and technical support for secure storage and backup processes.

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)?

- Storage and backup services provided by the University of Helsinki.
- Transcription services for interview data (will be performed by PI)