



Collaborative Research in the Social Sciences

Lessons Learned from Fieldwork in Guatemala

By: Emily Willard, PhD Candidate, JSIS

Why Collaborative Research?



Research Questions



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Why did women join armed groups in Guatemala? Why did women not join armed groups?



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What are women's experiences in conflict?



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What are women's experiences in conflict?

How and why do communities construct their own transitional justice projects?



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- **What are my assumptions?**
- **What is my positionality?**
- **What language are people using on the ground?**



“Standing With” - Kimberly TallBear (2014)







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- **What projects are people working on?**
- **What are the priorities of people I am interviewing?**



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- What projects are people working on?
- What are the priorities of people I am interviewing?
- What resources do I bring to the table?



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- **What projects are people working on?**
- **What are the priorities of people I am interviewing?**
- **What resources do I bring to the table?**
- **What can I contribute to existing work?**



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- What projects are people working on?
- What are the priorities of people I am interviewing?
- What resources do I bring to the table?
- What can I contribute to existing work?
- Are there existing protocols or structures for conducting research?



Motivations



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Tip #3: Constantly ask what are your motivations for doing what you are doing, from the mundane decisions to the complex.

Conclusions



Sources

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*****Assembled by Emily Willard, derived from Dr. Jean Dennison’s syllabus for ANTH 550

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