



Workshop on migration research methods during COVID-19, 10.11.2020

Is research in Covid-19 times mainly a problem of techniques? Potentials and limitations of participatory approaches and research partnerships

Yvonne Riaño

Institute of Geography

National Centre of Competence in Migration Research 'nccr-on-the-move'

University of Neuchâtel

Switzerland

http://www2.unine.ch/geographie/yvonne_riano



Introduction: distance and proximity

Covid-19 and the problem of geographical *distance*.

Creating *proximity*: how to achieve *mutual trust* between us and our research participants in order to gain access to the research sites?

Focus on discussing what techniques could replace face-to-face interviewing and direct field observations not sufficient.

Feminist and post-colonial researchers (e.g. Rose, 1997, Tuhiwai 1999, Jaggar 2008, Riaño, 2015) have argued that conventional methods create not only *exploitative relationships* but also less accurate scientific knowledge.

Need for more *just methods* striving to creating research partnerships based on mutual respect and reciprocity.
Potential: overcoming social and geographical distance, democratising migration research, more solid scientific knowledge.

Collaborative partnerships during Covid-19 times seem more important than ever before: *without mutual trust no digital methods*



The *Minga* methodology: Spaces of mutual learning

The 5 principles of the *Minga* methodology

1. Mutual learning (reciprocity)

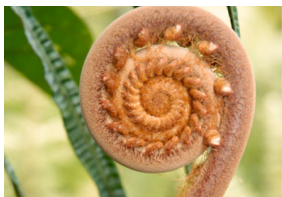
2. Mutual
recognition

4. Personal
transformation



3. Collective thinking

5. Access to academic
spaces



The *Minga* methodology: Spaces of mutual learning

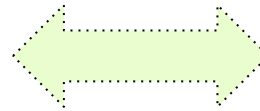
***Minga* workshops with returnees: sharing displacement experiences**



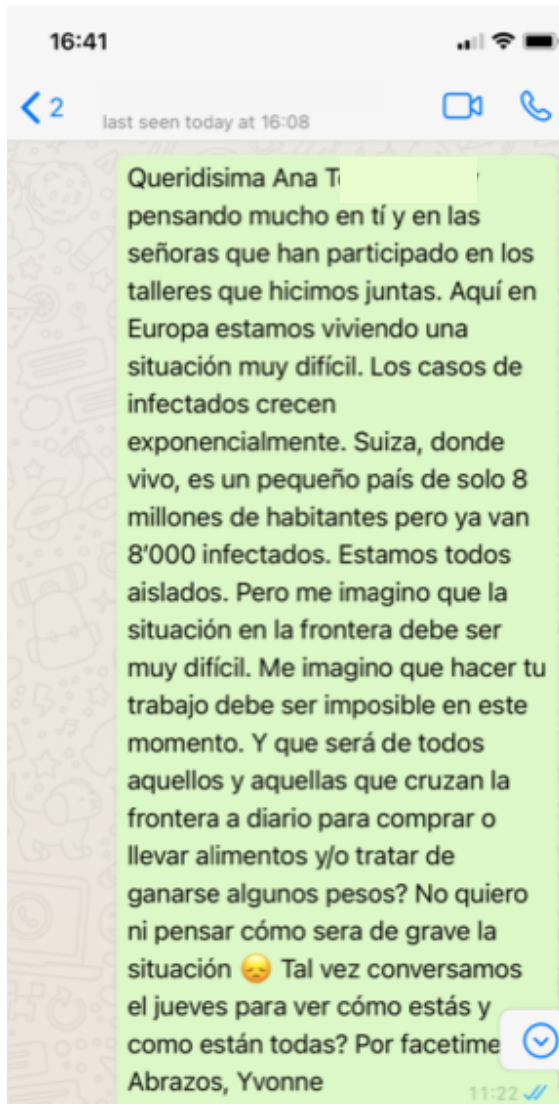
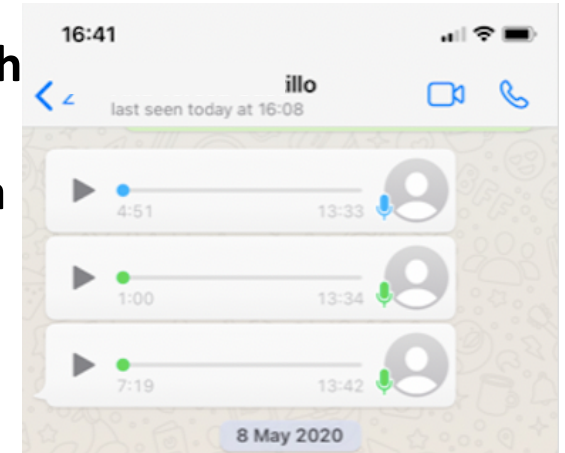


Building on *Minga* partnerships: 'whatsapp chains' as method

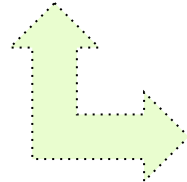
1. Riaño sends whatsapp stimulus



2. Research partners answer via whatsapp audios



4. Riaño sends output to partners for discussion



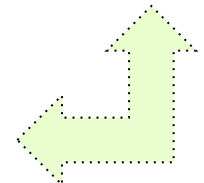
Audio 7:19

Toda la situación durísima, uno ve la gente que llora, niños que lloran porque los comedores los cerraron y usted sabe que la gente aquí vive día a día, la gente vive de lo que hacía, con eso pagaban arriendo, los están sacando porque como pagaban diario, los están tirando para la calle, me tocó sentarme un día por la mañana a hablar con todo el mundo y que escucharan, hablé con el gobernador, con el alcalde, decirles que eran seres humanos que buscaran un albergue, centro comunitario y los metieran, ahí están solucionando están haciendo un albergue portátil, ahí en frente del Centro Histórico, están haciendo unas carpas, esto es una pandemia que nos está matando a todos.

Aquí no salimos de la casa, hay mucho ladronismo, se están robando lo que sea, yo ayer desocupé la cocina, dejé solo la nevera y la estufa, y ahí unas cositas, porque se están llevando las cosas, las ollas, para venderlas por dos mil, tres mil pesos, la gente andando calles, que calle arriba, calle abajo y le toca a uno es mirar y quedarse quietico.

Y Venezuela, está cerrado por la pandemia, tiene varios casos ya de Covid, aún no sabemos qué hacer, las mujeres de la 1448 me llaman, me lloran me dicen Doña Teresa haga algo, usted sabe que esa gente es pobre, están vendiendo las cosas, nadie les compra, y me montan esas lloronas y yo también llorando a los organismos, al alcalde a ver qué hacemos, por ahí tengo una carta que me hizo la abogada para enviarla al presidente que yo voy a solucionar esos problema aquí en la frontera porque están muy graves, estamos graves,

3. Riaño transcribes various whatsapps, puts them together



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Building on *Minga* partnerships: workshops via Zoom

Research on Migrant Entrepreneurship: Partnership with Capacity (NGO)

EV



Christina Mitmasser, PhD candidate, Institute of Geography, 'nccr-on-the move' University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

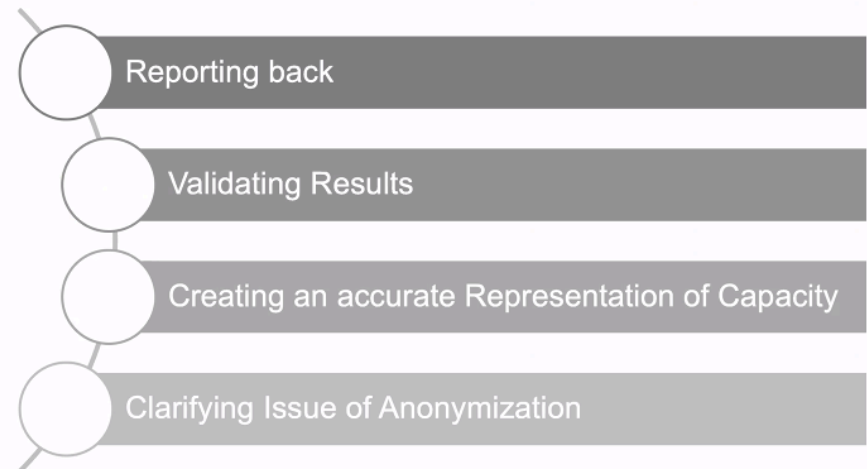
Collaborative digital workshop with Capacity: discussing research results

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Collaborative Workshop: **A Space for Mutual Learning**



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Digital methods based on research partnerships: Potentials

Collaborative partnerships via digital techniques seem to have *great potential* to overcome problems of social and geographical distance, to help democratise research, and produce more valid scientific knowledge.

'Whatsapp chains' with *Deredez* and Zoom workshops with *Capacity*: succesful for digital exchanges, creating spaces of mutual learning and more valid knowledge.

The *challenge* of creating collaborative partnerships as a solid basis of mutual trust for succesful digital exchanges:

- What can we researchers reciprocally offer to our research partners for their time and effort? I argue for creating spaces of *mutual learning*.
- Much creative potential in times of Covid-19 to think and experiment about how to reciprocally collaborate!! (e.g. volunteering, joint short publication addressed to the public with main results, workshop to discuss implications of results for NGO's programmes, joint short film, exhibition)



Digital methods based on research partnerships: Practical challenges

The challenge of digital workshops: what happens when there is *unequal access to internet and technology* among research partners? How to counteract this problem?

How to digitally bring together research partners scattered around the world? The challenge of *world time differences and reconciling professional and family lives*. How to address this challenge?

Proposed method of '*whatsapp chains*': seem more accessible for less-educated and less access to computer technology? However, a *more laborious task* for all research partners involved. How to address this issue and what techniques can facilitate the task?

The issue of consent. When and how to specify with our research partners which contents that are produced by digital exchanges can be disseminated among whom, when and how?

The issue of security: to what extent are the digital methods that we use secure and free from surveillance?



References

Project information page: "Migrant Entrepreneurship: Mapping Cross-Border Mobilities and Exploring the Role of Spatial Mobility Capital"

<https://nccr-onthemove.ch/projects/migrant-entrepreneurship-mapping-cross-border-mobilities-and-exploring-the-role-of-spatial-mobility-capital/>

Riaño, Yvonne (2015): **"Minga Participatory Workshops with Highly Skilled Migrant Women: Enhancing Spaces of Inclusion"**. In: *Qualitative Research (QR)*, Special Issue on Feminist Participatory Methodologies: pp. 10-23.

Caretta, Martina & Riaño, Yvonne (2016): **"Feminist Participatory Methodologies in Geography. Creating Spaces of Inclusion"**. In: *Qualitative Research (QR)*, Introduction to Special Issue on Feminist Participatory Methodologies. pp. 1-9.