Difficult Research Support Network

READING LIST

Convened by Maria Obrebska

DPhil at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford

maria.obrebska@reuben.ox.ac.uk

SUBJECT AREAS

1. **Vicarious trauma**
2. **Research with 'unlikeable others'**

This reading list is regularly updated. While it currently reflects the convenor's focus on right-wing studies, new suggestions are always welcome. Please email any recommended resources.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. VICARIOUS TRAUMA

The following resources have been compiled and shared by Maureen Freed, who leads the Vicarious Trauma programme at the University of Oxford. Attending the workshop is strongly encouraged.

1.1. Websites

- The Headington Institute has worked with humanitarian and development organisations for 30 years, providing training and resources. Their website has a wealth of resources. www.headington-institute.org
- Achilles is a provider of resilience training to armed forces personnel, journalists and humanitarian workers. The 'video' and 'resources' sections have some useful material. www.resiliencetraining.eu/?/achilles-initiative
- Tend is a Canadian organisation offering resources and training for high stress, trauma-exposed workplaces. It is directed by Francoise Mathieu and Patrician Fisher. It has an excellent 'Resources' section. www.tendacademy.ca
- The Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma at Columbia Journalism School supports ethical, safe reporting on trauma. Key resources include guidance on trauma-informed interviewing and handling visual material. www.dartcenter.org

1.2. General books about trauma and trauma psychotherapy

- Herman, J. (1992) Trauma and Recovery: From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror New York: Basic Books.
- van der Kolk, B. [2014] The Body Keeps the Score New York: Penguin.
- Marzillier [2014] The Trauma Therapies Oxford: OUP.

1.3. Videos

- Laurie Pearlman, one of the originators of the concept of 'vicarious trauma' has a series of videos including: 'What is vicarious trauma?' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVDSdta0mbM
- Social worker Wayne Scott talks about vicarious trauma resulting from hearing stories of suffering, in his video 'Strong @ the Broken Places' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I1mFSoTF1A&app=desktop
- Selection of University of Oxford fieldworker experiences: https://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/fieldworkers-experiences
- Neuroscientist Sara Lazar talks about how meditation widens the 'window of tolerance' and reduces emotional reactivity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8rRzTtP7Tc

1.4. Practical handbooks and workbooks

- Curran, Linda (2013) 101 Trauma-Informed Interventions Eau Claire, WI: PESI Publishing.
- Matthieu, Francoise (2012) The Compassion Fatigue Workbook New York: Routledge.
- Saakvitne, K. and Pearlman, L. (1996) Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization New York: Norton.
- Schiraldi, G. (2016) The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Sourcebook New York: McGraw Hill.
- Baranowsky, A. and Gentry, J.E. (2015) Trauma Practice: Tools for Stabilization and Recovery Boston: Hogrefe.

1.5. **Researchers' accounts of their research experiences**

- Alexander J, de Chesnay M, Marshall E, Campbell A, Johnson S, Wright R. (1989) "Research note: parallel reactions in 147 rape victims and rape researchers" Violence and Victims 4(1): 57–62. (Reviewed case records of rape victims.)
- Arditti, J.A., Joyest, K.S., Lambert-Shute, J. And Latanya, W. (2010) "The role of emotions in fieldwork: A self-study of family research in a corrections setting" The Qualitative Report 15(6):1387-1414.
- Beale, B., Cole, R. Hillege, S McMaster, R. And Nagy, S. (2004) "Impact of in-depth interviews on the interviewer: roller coaster ride" Nursing and Health Sciences 6:141–147 (Interviewed parents of children with eating disorders)
- Benoot, Charlotte and Bilsen, Johan (2016) "An Auto-Ethnographic Study of the Disembodied Experience of a Novice Researcher Doing Qualitative Cancer Research, Qualitative Health Research 26(4):482-289. (Interviewed cancer patients living alone.)
- Calgaro, E. (2015) "If you are vulnerable and you know it raise your hand: Experiences from working in post-tsunami Thailand" Emotion, Space and Society 17:45-54.
- Connolly, Kate and Reilly, Rosemary (2007) Emergent Issues When Researching Trauma: A confessional tale Qualitative Inquiry 13(4):522-540. (Studied impact of a multiple murder and suicide on the community in which it took place.)
- Cowles K. (1988) "Issues in qualitative research on sensitive topics" West. J. Nurs. Res.10: 163–179. (Interviewed adult survivors of murder victims.)
- Dickson-Swift et.al. (2007) "Doing Sensitive research: what challenges do qualitative researchers face?" Qualitative Research 7:327. (Interviewed 30 Australian public health researchers undertaking qualitative research on sensitive topics including homelessness, sexual behaviours, cancer, drug and alcohol abuse, violence, death and suicide.)

- Dominey-Howes, D. (2015) "Seeing 'the dark passenger' – Reflections on the emotional trauma of conducting post-disaster research" Emotion, Space and Society 17: 55-62.
- Drozdzewski, D. (2015) "Retrospective reflexivity: the residual and subliminal repercussions of researching war" Emotion, Space and Society 17:30-36
- Dunn L. (1991) "Pearls, Pith and provocation: Research alert! Qualitative research may be hazardous to your health." Qual.Health Res.1: 388–392. (Interviewed battered women.)
- Eriksen, Christine and Tamara Ditrich (2015) The relevance of mindfulness practice for trauma-exposed disaster researchers, Emotion, Space and Society 17: 63-69. (Conducted ethnographic research with wildfire survivors and disaster workers.)
- Gair, S. (2002) 'In the Thick of It: A Reflective Tale from an Australian Social Worker/Qualitative Researcher', Qualitative health Research 12:130-9. (Interviewed adoptive mothers.)
- Gandhi, Kanchan (2014) "Encountering, interrogating and realising the self: Managing emotional upheavals and break-downs during development fieldwork" http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/fieldresearch/2014/07/11/encountering-interrogating-and-realising-the-self/
- Higgins I. (1998) "Pearls, pith and provocation: Reflections on conducting qualitative research with elderly people" Qual. Health Res. 8: 858–866. (Interviewed elderly nursing home residents in chronic pain.)
- Hubbard, G., Backett-Milburn, K. And Kemmer, D. (2001) 'Working with emotions: Issues for the Researcher in Fieldwork and Teamwork', International Journal of Social Research Methodology 4:119-37.
- Jermanová, T. (2018) Little pink notebook, or fragments of my manic fieldwork adventures. Field Research Method Lab at LSE (8 February 2018) Blog entry. URL: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/fieldresearch/2018/02/08/little-pink-notebook/

- Kitson, G.C., Clark, R.D., Rushforth, N.B., Brinich, P.M, Sudak, H.S. and Zyzanski, S J. (1996) 'Research on Difficult Family Topics: Helping New and Experienced Researchers Cope with Research on Loss', Family Relations 45:183-8.
- Malacrida, Claudia (2007) "Reflexive Journaling on Emotional research topics: Ethical Issues for Team Researchers" Qualitative Health Research 17(10) 1329-1339. (Interviewed disabled mothers.)
- McClelland, S. (2017) "Vulnerable Listening: Possibilities and challenges of doing qualitative research" American Psychological Association (Interviewed women with Stage IV breast cancer.)
- McGarroll, Sarah (2017) 'The emotional challenges of conducting in-depth research into significant health issues in health geography: reflections on emotional labour, fieldwork and life course' in Area (Oxford-England) 49(4):436-442. (Interviewed survivors of heart attack.)
- Melrose, Margaret (2002) 'Labour Pains: Some Consideration on the Difficulties of Researching Juvenile Prostitution' International Journal of Social Research Methodology 5:333-51. (Interviewed people who had been involved in prostitution as juveniles.)
- Mills, M. and Coleman, P. (1994) Nostalgic memories in dementia--a case study, International Journal on Ageing and Human Development 38:203-219. (Interviewed moderately to severely demented elderly people.)
- Nakray, K. Alston, M. And Whittenbury, K. (2015) "Vicarious Trauma and Safety Protocols for Sensitive Feminist Research: Reflections on the Research Process of Transcribing and Translating Interviews with HIV-Positive Women in India Social Science Research Ethics for a Globalizing World: Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Perspectives Routledge pp.304-316.   (Interviewed HIV-positive women.)
- Nillson, U. (2008) "Emotional Archives and Body Politics" in Thinking With Beverley Skeggs (ed. Olsson, A.), Stockholm: Centre for Gender Studies, Stockholm University. (Reviewed records of lobotomised patients.)

- Pollard, A. (2009) Fields of screams: Difficulty and ethnographic fieldwork, Anthropology Matters 11(2):1-24. (Studied experiences of 16 doctoral students in Anthropology.)
- Rager, Kathleen (2005) "Compassion Stress and the Qualitative Researcher" Qualitative Health Research Vol. 15 No. 3, March 2005 423-430
- Sampson, H. Bloor, M. and Fincham, B. (2008) "A Price Worth Paying? Considering the 'Cost' of Reflexive Research Methods and the Influence of Feminist Ways of 'Doing'" Sociology Vol 42(5):919-933.
- Scott, Sara (1998) 'Here Be Dragons: Research the unbelievable, Hearing the unthinkable. A feminist sociologist in uncharted territory' Sociological Research Online vol.3.n.3, http:///www.socresonline.org.uk/3/3/1.html (Interviewed survivors of childhood ritual abuse.)
- Shesterinina, Anastasia (2019) "Ethics, empathy, and fear in research on violent conflict" Journal of Peace Research volume 56(2) 190-202.
- van Zijll de Jong, S. et. al. (2011) "Processes, practice and priorities – key lessons learnt undertaking sensitive social reconnaissance research as part of an (UNESCO-IOC) International Tsunami Survey Team" Earth Sciences Review 107: 174-192. (Interviewed tsunami survivors.)
- Warr, D. (2004) 'Stories in the Flesh and Voices in the Head: Reflections on the Context and Impact of Research with Disadvantaged Populations', Qualitative Health Research 14:578-87.
- Wincup, E. (2001) Feminist research with women awaiting trial: The effects on participants in the qualitative research process. In K. R. Gilbert (Ed.),The emotional nature of qualitative research (pp. 17-35). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press LLC. (Interviewed women awaiting trial.)
- Wood, E. (2006) The Ethical Challenges of Field Research in Conflict Zones Qualitative Sociology 29:373-386
- Woodby, L., Williams, R., Wittich, A. And Burgio, K. (2011) 'Expanding the Notion of Researcher Distress: The Cumulative Effects of Coding' Qualitative Health Research 21(6) 830-838. (Interviewed next of kin of recently deceased veterans.)

2. RESEARCH WITH 'UNLIKEABLE OTHERS'

With special thanks to Dr. Anna Löbbert for generously sharing many of these recommended resources.

2.1. **Websites**

- C-REX – Center for Research on Extremism – Webinar series: Global perspectives on the far right – archival recordings available here: https://www.sv.uio.no/c-rex/english/news-and-events/events/webinar/global-perspectives-on-the-far-right/

2.2. **Articles**

- Balthazar, A. C. (2021a) 'Final considerations: The ethics of an anthropology of nationalist populism', in Ethics and Nationalist Populism at the British Seaside. 1st edition [Online]. United Kingdom: Routledge, pp. 139–148.
- Balthazar, A. C. (2021b) Ethnography of the right as ethical practice. Social Anthropology [Online], 29(2), pp. 337–338.
- Blee, K. M. (1993) Evidence, Empathy, and Ethics: Lessons from Oral Histories of the Klan. The Journal of American History (Bloomington, Ind.) [Online], 80(2), pp. 596–606.
- Cammelli, M. G. (2017) Fascism as a style of life: Community life and violence in a neofascist movement in Italy. Focaal [Online], 2017(79), pp. 89–101.
- Fangen, K. (1999) On the Margins of Life: Life Stories of Radical Nationalists. Acta Sociologica [Online], 42(4), pp. 357–373.
- Gusterson, H. (2017) From Brexit to Trump: Anthropology and the rise of nationalist populism. American Ethnologist[Online], 44(2), pp. 209–214.
- Harding, S. (1991) Representing Fundamentalism: The Problem of the Repugnant Cultural Other. Social Research, 58(2), pp. 373–393.
- Holmes, D. R. (2019) Fascism at eye level: The anthropological conundrum. Focaal [Online], 2019(84), pp. 62–90.

- Kalb, D. (2009) Conversations with a Polish populist: Tracing hidden histories of globalization, class, and dispossession in postsocialism (and beyond). American Ethnologist [Online], 36(2), pp. 207–223.
- Mazzarella, W. (2019) The Anthropology of Populism: Beyond the Liberal Settlement. Annual Review of Anthropology[Online], 48(1), pp. 45–60.
- Nader, L. (2022) 'Up the Anthropologist: Perspectives Gained From Studying Up', in Contrarian Anthropology [Online]. New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, pp. 12–32.
- Näser-Lather, M. (2023) Dimensions of Positioning. Conflictual Dynamics in the Field of Anti-"Genderism". Public Anthropologist (Print) [Online], 5(2), pp. 293–314.
- Ortner, S. B. (1995) Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal. Comparative Studies in Society and History[Online], 37(1), pp. 173–193.
- Pasieka, A. (2017) Taking Far-Right Claims Seriously and Literally: Anthropology and the Study of Right-Wing Radicalism. Slavic Review [Online], 76(S1), pp. S19–S29.
- Pinheiro-Machado, R. & Scalco, L. (2021) Humanising fascists? Nuance as an anthropological responsibility. Social Anthropology [Online], 29(2), pp. 329–336.
- Riccardi-Swartz, S. (2020) Fieldwork and Fallout with the Far Right. American Ethnologist website, 18 June 2020, [https://americanethnologist.org/features/reflections/fieldwork-and-fallout-with-the-far-right]
- Tidjani Alou, A. (2015) 'Methodological Populism and Ideological Populism in Anthropology', in Epistemology, Fieldwork, and Anthropology [Online]. United States: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. [page number if available].
- Teitelbaum, B. R. et al. (2019) Collaborating with the Radical Right: Scholar-Informant Solidarity and the Case for an Immoral Anthropology. Current Anthropology [Online], 60(3), pp. 414–435.