

Remote Fieldwork

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Who are you?

- PhD
- Postdoc
- Senior Scholar

- Established fieldsite?

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Endangered Languages Documentation Programme



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ELDP and COVID

- 120 ongoing projects
- Cancellation of 2020 grant round
- Small grants (1 year project)
- Salaried projects (doctoral and post doctoral grantees)

- Projects all over the globe: different solutions
- Projects at different stages: different solutions

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COVID and urgency

- COVID affecting communities and especially elders
- Financial support through projects for communities
- Supporting wish to document now
- Covid may not pass as fast as we wish
- New ways of working improving our practices

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How we will be working?

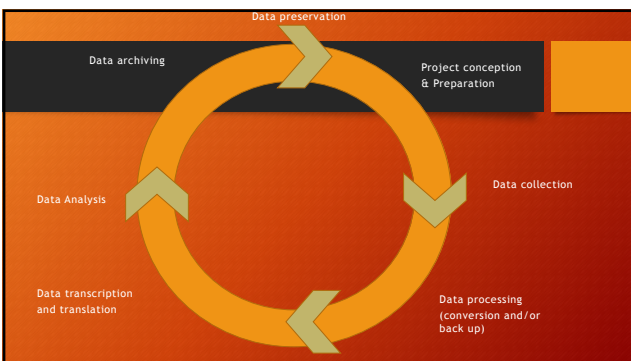
- Raise an issue posed as question describing the challenge
- Present some solutions

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Fieldwork...

- What is the difference between in situ fieldwork and remote fieldwork?
- What are the challenges?
- 10 minutes

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Anyways and in the meantime...

- Archival research
- DELAMAN archives (<https://www.delaman.org/>)
- Materials on the language
- Materials on closely related languages
- Preparatory work
 - Transcription (existing conventions)
 - Translation
 - Semantics/Wordlists



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Anyways and in the meantime...

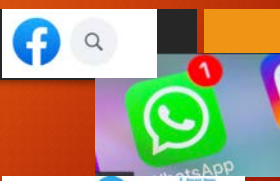
- Find collections (and help with the preservation of them)
- Other scholars, activists, missionaries, retirees
- Process recordings
 - From digitization to archiving

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Getting in touch...

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Going digital...



- Writing
 - WhatsApp
 - Facebook
 - Telegramme
 - Email
- Oral
 - Facetime/WhatsApp...
 - Skype/Zoom/GoogleHangout/...

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What gear is needed

- Connectivity: Getting the local team digitally connected
 - phones
 - laptops
 - internet connection (<https://www.internetsociety.org/>)
 - satellite antenna receiver
 - router for outdoors
 - internet plan (satellite service for remote areas)
 - => \$\$\$ phone credit/internet time (data)/bandwidth
- Recording: Getting the local team equipped with tools
 - audio/video recorders /mics there (e.g., zoomq8)
 - phone
 - laptop

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On gear...

- Record with phone, tablet or laptop
- Sturdy equipment easy to handle and maintain
- Power supply



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On relationships...

- Building and maintaining
 - Rapport
 - Relationships
 - Trust
- Different models of relationships
 - Same same but different
 - Taro' of

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What are the challenges for data collection?

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Data collection: What to collect how by whom?

- Recording the session
 - Elicitation
 - Interviews
 - Narratives
 - Oral histories
 - Play back
- Recording by local team
 - Conversations
 - Rituals
 - Cultural Practices
 -

What will be difficult or not work and why?

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Karoline Grzech (ELDP grantee) and her ecquadorian collaborator doing BowPed elicitation

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What are the challenges for analysis?

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Data Analysis

- Transcription & Translation
- Facebook and Whatapp
- ELAN or...
 - Compress audio to mp3
 - Send over
- BOLD (Basic Oral Language Documentation) = respeaking/careful speech
 - SayMore
 - AIKUMA
 - Segmentation and recording the respeaking

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Know your pitfalls...and have solutions

- Contact time is precious, we cannot waste it
- Prepare, prepare, prepare...practice
 - Remote fieldwork with people who will forgive you (family, close friends...)
 - Different relationships
 - Different digital literacy

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Data Processing

- Meta data (who is talking about what when and where)
- Conversion (formats for processing)
- Preservation (back up and file naming)
- Consent (who can do what with the recording)
- Transfer (how to get it to you/archive/safe place)

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The screenshot displays a digital commons interface with two main sections. The top section is titled 'Chatino Language Documentation' and features a photograph of children holding signs that say 'Chatino' and 'Lipin'. Below the photo are several document thumbnails. The bottom section is titled 'Linguistics for Northwest India' and also shows a grid of document thumbnails. The interface includes navigation tabs like 'Home', 'About', 'Contact', and 'Help'.

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Cyber security

- A video-based solution must enable HIPAA compliance through 256-bit AES encryption for data in transit and at rest, and without accessing protected personal information.
- Recording the session through the record button of the application can mean that rights are shared... record in a different way?
- Zoom's privacy policies:
 - Use users' personal data, and its encryption policies, which have been more than a tad misleading.

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Ethics

- Consent (who will get consent)
 - Can you record
 - Who you use for what
 - Who can see/hear recording
 - Who can read transcriptions and translation
- Rights
 - Copy right
 - Intellectual property
 - The person who pushes the record button

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Opportunity to get things right ...

- Richer and more diverse recordings and data
- Recording of what the community cares about
- Recording with the viewpoint of the filmer
- Whose view is it
- Developing capacity
- Sustainability
- Leaving the extractive practice behind...

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Find your solution for your particular project

“Try again. Fail again. Fail better”
Samuel Beckett

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Resources

- Abralin Talk Series <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egnb4KuX5E>
- Linguistics in the Pub: fieldwork at a distance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K89TKXaJN1U>
 - Emiliana Cruz, CIESAS-CDMX
 - Ruth Singer, University of Melbourne
 - Stephen Morey, La Trobe University
 - Claire Bower, Yale University
- Digital Ethnography (Routledge)

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