

/ PROTOCOLS FOR FIELDWORK¹ /

The following protocols have been developed to assist recruited students for the summer school *Expanding the Margins* in planning, conducting, and reporting on an investigation based on an original research question. This question is to be co-determined teams of students recruited by each faculty member within the thematic parameters set by the program title and the additional concepts crisis, capitalism, and commons. Ideally, all students recruited from each faculty member will conduct collective research. An initial multi-media abstract is to be submitted by July 31st. During the summer school from 21–26 September 2014 at the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt-Universität Berlin, each research group will report on its investigation and coordinate discussion and reflection of results.

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1 **Organize** an encounter as soon as possible with all of the other summer school attendees recruited by your faculty member. This is your research group. Determine whether you will work collaboratively on the investigation (preferred), or work on separate but coordinated investigations.

2 **Outline** the focus of your group study or individual but coordinated investigations.

- a Where can you make a useful contribution locally? What focus would allow you to make a meaningful contribution to the summer school? To which body of knowledge will you contribute?
- b Consider the research tools and methods available in the collective capacity of your team: Will you conduct empirical research or choose a real item or phenomenon upon which to base a theoretical elaboration?

3 **Develop** your research question.

- a Visit locations and events. Listen to conversations with community members, organizers, activists, case-workers, and scholars. Take extensive notes to record new, affirmed, and contradictory information.
- b What themes are to be explored? What questions and contradictions arise?
- c Which generated terms and concepts can guide or assist in your investigation?
- d What original question can you answer with respect to your initial exploration and the available research capabilities of your team?
- e Record your hypotheses.

¹ The protocols were initially designed by the sound art collective Ultra-red for the purpose of sound investigations as a means of popular organizing. We are grateful to the collective for inviting us to use the protocols as inspiration for *Expanding the Margins*.

- 4 **Return** to the sites at which your topic of study can be explored with the new lens of your research question.
 - a Reflect on and develop an awareness for agreements, conflicts, negotiations, misunderstandings, power relations, and accountabilities in your field of research.
 - b Collect and generate material: e.g., ephemera, photographs, video, music, fashion, scholarly literature, sound, media clippings, and oral history recordings. Collect minutes, interview guidelines, notes, conversations, interviews, sounds, documents, and maps.
 - c Develop an approach to analyze the material possibly together with people in the field: e.g. screen, file, code, arrange, generate themes, relate to theoretical work, etc. Take the first steps towards such an analysis.
 - d What becomes visible? What becomes audible? What becomes (differently) conceivable?
- 5 **Compose** a multimedia abstract to guide your research and introduce your project to other participants of the summer school.
 - a Choose one or more sites at which the issues related to your research question concentrate. Take a one-minute sound recording and save it in mp3 format.
 - b Decide on an image that relates to your question. Capture, copy, or create this image and save it in jpeg or png format with a resolution of at least 800x600 pixels.
 - c Draft a text explaining your research question, hypotheses and methods of no longer than one page.
 - d Revise this document to reflect your own research process and save your edited version.
 - e Submit the four-part multimedia abstract by July 31.
- 6 **Conduct** your investigation.
 - a Implement the research outlined in your abstract. Determine how the multimediality of the abstract relates to your research process: Are the sound and image guiding objects? Representational materials? Methods?
 - b How do your question, method, and findings relate to existing knowledge and practices?
- 7 **Plan** and implement a presentation for the summer school.
 - a How can you most productively engage summer school participants with your research in the allotted time-slot of 1,5 hours? What original knowledge or practice has been produced through your investigation?
 - b Engage with the abstracts of other summer school participants. What translational concepts and tools can you use to locate possible overlaps, contradictions or points of disjuncture between your and other research projects? What new questions arise?
 - b Teach others about your approach, research process and findings. Present your investigation at the summer school in a time-slot of 1,5 hours including discussion. All presentations will be held from 21-26 September 2014. Exact time slots will be determined and communicated at the beginning of September.