

CAUTIOUS NEW WORLD



FIELDWORK IN PANDEMIC TIMES

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on anthropology as a discipline, it left us with scars that we have to learn from. As a whole, the social sciences have experienced a drastic transformation in the conditions that make fieldwork possible. For example, participant observation has never been more challenged due to its nature of creating alongside interlocutors. And also in a much broader sense, anthropologists are asking themselves how their work can be useful in a (post-) pandemic era? Contemporary handbooks that were once practical in the dissemination of anthropological pedagogy, face reworking to prepare budding researchers tread through our now socially-distanced field.

Our school has always fostered a safe space to face methodological inquiries that are ethical, practical, and intellectual. This has been the core of our program for the last 16 years: to explore issues related to fieldwork through a first-hand experience of doing research. We now reassess our facility to provide a confined, safe, and peer-mentored setting by which we can multiply this learning process in a shared context. We use our collective research experience to continue a dynamic conversation about the future of our practice.

Participants of our program base their learning experience on an individual research project of their own choice. COVID-19 related research topics or methodological exploration of doing fieldwork in post-pandemic times is critical to this optional project. Participation can also be limited to sharing your practical and ethical experiences with your peers and mentors. The development of these altered methods is a shared responsibility of all fieldworkers. Whether you seek to explore the vulnerability of elderly in our societies, the impact of tourism on local economies, or the relationships between human and non-human species, this pandemic will be a factor. In short: we are bringing people together to reimagine the future of fieldwork.

Goals

- ✓ Fresh perspective on how to obtain qualitative information during socially-distanced times.
- ✓ Contribution to avant-garde group learning in anthropology that process new mediums of participant observation.
- ✓ Insight to field navigation that remains inclusive to interlocutor and researcher safety.
- ✓ Strategies on how to navigate issues of insecurity with your informants regarding distance regulations.
- ✓ Co-authorship on a communal methodological paper.

Directed at

Anyone interested in social science application to pandemic response and research.

Timing & Location

Summer 2022, Gozo (Malta)

Program Director

Sam Janssen
sam.janssen@xpeditions.be

Leading Researcher

Jacob Jansen
jjansen.otbt@gmail.com

Program Cost: €3.550

(all inclusive, except transport)

Credits: 9

3 for completion of the program
6 for peer reviewed article

Application & information

www.anthropologyfieldschool.org

