Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTuuli

Title: Between Two Worlds: The Coping Strategies of Ukrainian Social Scientists During War

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Funder: The Research Council of Finland (former The Academy of Finland)

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Project abstract:

The war in Ukraine has catalysed significant disruptions within the academic sector, particularly impacting social sciences. This research aims to thoroughly examine the effects of this conflict on Ukrainian social scientists, focusing on both those who have remained in Ukraine and those who have relocated to Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland). The study explores the coping strategies and mechanisms these academics utilize to navigate the multifaceted challenges presented by the war.
Employing a mixed-methods approach, this project will gather both qualitative and quantitative data through surveys distributed to social scientists in universities, research institutes, and governmental bodies across Ukraine and Nordic countries. Additionally, in-depth interviews will be conducted to delve deeper into the personal and professional impacts of displacement, with a comparative analysis of the experiences of those who have stayed versus those who have moved.
Methodologically, the project will integrate discourse analysis, resilience studies, migration studies, and digital ethnography to assess the impacts holistically. Digital ethnography will be used to analyze the digital communications and interactions among social scientists, providing deeper insights into how digital environments influence their coping mechanisms and social support systems. The analysis will also incorporate examination of contemporary academic publications and, where possible, autobiographical accounts from affected scientists. The outcomes of this study are expected to offer valuable insights into the resilience and adaptive capacities of social scientists under duress. Furthermore, the findings will provide empirical evidence to guide the development of policies aimed at supporting the academic community during and after crises.

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Between Two Worlds: The Coping Strategies of Ukrainian Social Scientists During War

1. General description of data

1.1 What kinds of data is your research based on? What data will be collected, produced or reused? What file formats will the data be in? Additionally, give a rough estimate of the size of the data produced/collected.

The study will collect new data as follows:

Survey Data: Data will be collected from Ukrainian social scientists who have remained in Ukraine or relocated to Nordic countries, using structured surveys. The surveys will collect demographic data (country of residence after war, age group, gender, academic degree), professional impact assessments, and personal experiences during the war, but respondents answer survey anonymously. Demographic data will not be attached to specific answers in publications based on the data, but used as overall description of the respondents. This data will be collected electronically and stored initially in spreadsheet format (.xlsx) (and then transformed into a csv-file).

The surveys will be anonymous, ensuring that participants' identities are not recorded. The target number of N=62 (47 academics in Ukraine and Finland + 15 academics in other Nordic countries). **Data related to collecting personal experience during the war** (coping mechanisms) cannot be identified using surveys.

Additionally, **demographic data, professional impact assessments data for these research project** will be used from the participants, who belong to the web platform **'Ukrainian Scientific Diaspora'** (USD) https://ukrdiaspora.nauka.gov.ua/en/signup/. Additionally, In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Personal Data" and the EU GDPR, **each member of USD consented to**: 1) the processing of my personal data from primary sources in this amount; 2) use of personal data; 3) distribution of personal data; and 4) access to personal data of third parties by the Young Scientists Council | Scholar Support Office at the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine. The Young Scientists Council | Scholar Support Office at the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine will process the following personal data of scientists: surname, first name, gender of the scientist; date of leaving Ukraine; what oblast do they represent in Ukraine, their home institution, host institution in EU and other countries, science area; information about cluster of the Horizon Europe program they would like to participate; contact details of the candidate: e-mail; other information. Members of the USD also allowed to use this data for mapping. **All abovementioned information about participants is public and visible on the website** https://ukrdiaspora.nauka.gov.ua/en/directory/

Interview Data: In-depth qualitative interviews will be conducted with selected participants from the survey. At the end of the surveys will be open question about whether respondents want to take part in interview about same themes and leave their e-mail address to the researcher. These interviews will be audio-recorded, with a target number of N=15. Each interview is expected to last approximately 40 minutes. The total amount of recorded material is estimated at 10 hours. All recordings will first be in audio format (.wav) and then transcribed into Word files (.docx) by researcher Dr. Domina. While participants' identities are known to the researcher during the interview process, strict measures will ensure confidentiality throughout the study. There will be no questions during the audio recording that can be used as direct or indirect identifiers. Only questions relating to coping mechanisms of Ukrainian social scientists during the war.

Digital Ethnography Data: Observational data will be collected through digital ethnography methods, focusing on the online community "Ukraine Science Diaspora" in the Telegram application and their website Ukraine Science Diaspora. Data will be gathered through systematic observation at regular intervals and stored in digital formats suitable for qualitative analysis, such as photos, screenshots, and textual records. Specific thematic coding will be applied to analyze interactions and discourse within these platforms. Data will be securely stored on the University of Helsinki's password-protected P-station immediately after collection. Raw data will not be stored on personal devices (e.g., phones) for extended periods. The Ukrainian Science Diaspora Telegram group is public, allowing anyone with the link to join and access its content (the link to Telegram group is public and available on the website of USD).

Scoping Review Data: A scoping review will analyze approximately 30 articles relevant to the study's focus. The articles will be systematically collected from academic databases. This data will be summarized and stored in textual format (.docx) and tabular format (.xlsx).

Estimated Data Size

- Survey Data: Approximately 2 MB.
- Interview Data: Approximately 20 GB (audio recordings) and 3 MB (transcriptions).
- Digital Ethnography Data: Approximately 500 MB.
- Scoping Review Data: Approximately 1 MB.

1.2 How will the consistency and quality of data be controlled?

Survey Data: Surveys will be designed and piloted to ensure clarity and relevance of questions. Regular checks will be performed to ensure the accuracy of data entry.

Interview Data: Interviewers will follow a structured interview guide to maintain consistency across participants. Audio recordings will be reviewed for clarity and quality. Any unclear recordings will be flagged for re-interviewing or excluded. Transcriptions will be double-checked for accuracy against the original audio recordings.

Digital Ethnography Data: Data will be collected systematically using predefined criteria and observation schedules. Screenshots and textual records will be reviewed to ensure they accurately reflect observed interactions.

Scoping Review Data: Articles will be selected based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria.

2. Ethical and legal compliance

2.1 What legal issues are related to your data management? (For example, GDPR and other legislation affecting data processing.)

The research adheres to the principles of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In this study, personal data processing is limited strictly to what is necessary to achieve the research objectives, ensuring compliance with GDPR requirements. The lawful basis for data processing is explicit informed consent, obtained from all participants. Participants will be fully informed about the purpose of the research, the measures taken to ensure their confidentiality, and their rights, including the right to withdraw their consent or request data deletion at any point during the study.

The data collection process will be aligned with GDPR principles of purpose limitation and data minimization. Only the data required to answer the research questions will be collected. For example, surveys will focus on experiences during the war, and interviews will explore themes relevant to the study without delving into unnecessary personal details. Observations in digital ethnography will be limited to content directly related to the thematic analysis, avoiding the collection of irrelevant and personal data from which participants of the study could be recognized.

2.2 How will you manage the rights of the data you use, produce and share?

The project complies with the principles of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) and the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The legal basis for processing personal data in this research is **scientific research in the public interest**, which provides a robust framework for ensuring compliance while safeguarding participants' rights.

Participants in **surveys and interviews** will be informed about the purpose of the study, the methods employed to protect their confidentiality, and their rights, including the right to withdraw from participation at any time. Informed consent will be obtained in writing for participation. However, as recommended, public interest is used as the legal basis for processing personal data. This approach ensures that the withdrawal of consent to participate does not retroactively prevent the lawful processing of already collected data, as long as it is used solely for the intended research purposes.

The transcription of interviews will be conducted solely by the PI, Dr. Oksana Domina, to limit access to sensitive information. Transcriptions will be pseudonymized to remove direct identifiers, ensuring confidentiality. Fully anonymized data will be used for analysis, and only anonymized datasets will be shared or archived

Based on the criteria outlined by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) and research design, it**does not require a statement from an ethics committee**. The research does not seem to deviate from the principle of informed consent, involve interventions in physical integrity, focus on minors without appropriate parental consent, expose participants to exceptionally strong stimuli, risk causing excessive mental harm, or threaten participant safety. Based on the funding decision and terms, the Research Council of Finland does not require a statement.

Surveys will be administered through a secure platform approved by the University of Helsinki (https://elomake.helsinki.fi/), because platform supports Ukrainian language Information doesn't consider as sensitive.

For **digital ethnography data**, the following ethical considerations will be addressed:

Explicit informed consent will be obtained when interacting directly with individuals in the Ukraine Science Diaspora Telegram group (USD) or through their website. Publicly available data, such as posts on public forums, will be treated in accordance with ethical guidelines for online research. The USD Telegram group is public, allowing anyone with the link to join and access its content (the link to Telegram group is public and available on the website of USD). Since the research project is limited to the Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland), the information consent will be taken separately from each member of the subgroup of a particular country. One of the group's goals is to strengthen the cohesion of Ukrainians abroad to implement ideas related to post-war reconstruction through science. Therefore, obtaining informed consent from participants in this group is a common practice for conducting research.

Efforts will be made to pseudonymize data collected from online interactions to protect participants' identities. This will include removing usernames, profile images, and other direct identifiers. All personal information of the research participants is publicly available on the website of the web platform 'Ukrainian Scientific Diaspora'. This information will be used only for statistical processing, which does not lead to the identification of participants. Participants in private groups will be informed about the researcher's presence, objectives, and intended use of the data.

Observations conducted in the**"Ukraine Science Diaspora"** online community will respect the norms and rules established by the community. In addition, the research will comply with **Telegram's Terms of Service (ToS), Privacy Policy, and End-User Licensing Agreements (EULA),**which outline the acceptable use of the platform and the boundaries for data collection. Telegram's ToS prohibits unauthorized methods of data collection, such as scraping or harvesting user information, and emphasizes the importance of respecting user privacy. Content in public channels and groups may be considered public information, but private or restricted group discussions are not public and require additional safeguards. Telegram's Privacy Policy underscores the platform's commitment to protecting communications through encryption, which limits the accessibility of private content without user consent. The EULA reinforces the requirement to use the platform in compliance with local and international privacy regulations, including GDPR.

In this research, data collected from public groups or channels will be treated as public information, provided that ethical guidelines are followed, and sensitive content is not extracted or distributed inappropriately.

As **scoping reviews** analyze publicly available academic articles, ethical concerns are minimal. However, proper citations and respect for intellectual property rights will be strictly maintained.

Research data will be treated as confidential, and personal data will only be processed by the Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Domina. The University of Helsinki's ethical guidelines and the study's ethical approval protocols will guide the entire research process.

3. Documentation and metadata

3. How will you document your data in order to make the data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable for you and others? What kind of metadata standards, README files or other documentation will you use to help others to understand and use your data?

Data (surveys, Interviews and digital ethnography) will not be opened for reuse for following reasons: First reason is that participants of the research should be asked for consent to share the data, since this is not common practice in Ukraine and participants are in vulnerable situation this may negatively affect their willingness to participate in the study.

Second reason is that anonymisation can make further use of difficult or even render the data unusable. It is also very difficult to anonymize digital ethnography data.

Third reason is that data will be collected in Ukrainian language, and we did not find data archives in Finland such as Social Science Data Archive (FSD), who would handle data in Ukrainian language. Project does not have resources to translate datasets in other languages, such as Finnish or English and anonymize them.

Scoping Review Data will be available: A detailed log of the selected articles, their metadata (e.g., title, author, publication date, journal), and the extracted data (e.g., themes, methodologies, key findings) will be maintained in both textual and tabular formats.

4. Storage and backup during the research project

4.1 Where will your data be stored, and how will the data be backed up?

All research data will be securely stored using the University of Helsinkipassword-protected P-station. Station is also behind UH account ensuring security. Access to the data will be restricted and secured from unauthorized users.

4.2 Who will be responsible for controlling access to your data, and how will secured access be controlled?

The University of Helsinki provides robust data storage services with automated backups and data recovery options. Access to sensitive data will be monitored using the university's access log system. Only Dr. Domina and Dr. Eveliina Heino will have access to the raw data, with strict adherence to access control policies.

5. Opening, publishing and archiving the data after the research project

5.1 What part of the data can be made openly available or published? Where and when will the data, or its metadata, be made available?

Scoping Review Data will be available: A detailed log of the selected articles, their metadata (e.g., title, author, publication date, journal), and the extracted data (e.g., themes, methodologies, key findings) will be maintained in both textual and tabular formats.

5.2 Where will data with long-term value be archived, and for how long?

All data will be securely stored in the P-station, which ensures secure and monitored access, compliant with GDPR and institutional data management standards. Data will be used after the end of the research project for as long as required to answer the research questions set out in the research plan. Further use of the data is possible in research projects on same theme in which Dr. Domina will participate in. Data will be destroyed by the end of 2037. Heino and Domina are responsible for destroying data.

6. Data management responsibilities and resources

6.1 Who (for example role, position, and institution) will be responsible for data management?

Dr. Domina and Heino are responsible for overseeing all aspects of data management, including ethical compliance and storage. The University of Helsinki's IT Services and Data Support staff will provide consultation and technical support for secure storage. Backup processes will be done automatically in P-drive.

6.2 What resources will be required for your data management procedures to ensure that the data can be opened and preserved according to FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)?

All information about data used in the scoping review will be openly described in the publication.

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