

CO²LIBRI
HU/ZMO

CONCEPTUAL COLLABORATION - LIVING
BORDERLESS RESEARCH INTERACTION

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Berlin
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International
Quarterly for

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Studies

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE AIM FOR

Negotiating Research Ethics – An Initiative aims to establish sustained critical research ethics pedagogy, praxis, and responsive review processes. As an initiative guided by decolonial, decentred, and critical approaches, we also draw attention to the ways in which the coloniality of knowledge, being, and power shape research and knowledge production, and as such relevant to research ethics. We are conscious of how research and knowledge production has been and can be exploitative, extractive, racist, and unequal, particularly between the Global North and the Global South. We conceptualize research ethics not as a standardized, research design planning step, but rather as an ongoing process and negotiation from the beginning, i.e. the research idea, and that doesn't stop with the dissemination of findings. It also challenges how we think of the 'field' as something we enter and leave, but rather understands it as navigating various 'fields' in the course and quest of knowledge production. It also challenges how we think of the 'persons' involved in our research process, how we design and build a knowledge production process, how we conceive 'purpose', 'power', 'positionality' and 'relationships' as well as responsibilities thereof. While 'do no harm' is a key principle of any research ethics model, we see this as a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-layered principle, part of shifting dynamics, relationships and subjectivities in the course of knowledge productions – requiring continuous reflection, negotiation and coping strategies. How to plan and design, how to acquire, manage and sustain necessary resources and how to stay engaged and committed are challenging tasks that require academic exchange, training and continuous self-reflective learning processes.

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