



## **Workshop**

### **Research Ethics in Biography Research**

**Department of Sociology, University of Crete (online via zoom)**

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021**

In this workshop we will discuss and reflect on ethical questions in biography research. The adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the European Union in May 2018 has made us all more aware of the various ethical challenges involved in biographical research. Researchers have to reflect and adequately deal with a number of ethical questions and challenges in the field research process. The different challenges concern the research relationship or research alliance with regard to questions of trust, power hierarchies, and mutual as well as differing interests concerning research questions, aims, and procedures. Furthermore, questions arise regarding “informed consent” as an ongoing process and a dialogue, the moral and legal rights of research participants, the notion of authenticity and truth of the narrated life stories, issues of confidentiality, and protection of sensitive personal data. Finally, there are questions that concern the archiving of biographical data and the social and political consequences for secondary analysis or public accessibility.

The first part of the workshop will be introduced by a public lecture by Hella von Unger (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich), which will be followed by a discussion on current theoretical issues relating to ethics in qualitative biographical research. In the afternoon session, open only to registered participants, we will discuss ethical dilemmas and challenges that arise in the field of biographical research, when conducting biographical-narrative interviews and carrying out reconstructive biographical case analysis. In this part of the workshop participants will have an opportunity to present and discuss ethical challenges that they have encountered in the research process or in the public presentation of their work.

We would like to invite PhD students and other scholars who are working with biographical methods to participate in our workshop and discuss the ethical challenges they have encountered in their research practice.

For organizational reasons, the number of participants of the workshop is limited. There is no fee for registration.

## Program

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021**

11.00 (*Greek time zone*) Welcome and Introduction

Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete) & Irimi Siouti (Institute for Social Research Frankfurt/FUAS)

11.15-13.00 Part I: **Public Lecture and Discussion**

Keynote: Hella von Unger (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich): "Ethical reflexivity in qualitative biographical research: Food for thought on informed consent, questions of representation and data archiving."

Chair: Riki Van Boeschoten (Greek Oral History Association)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98056511277?pwd=NkdpdUpWwXpUdmVkQjVRSGhHMHY4QT09>

Meeting ID: 980 5651 1277

Passcode: 342031

16.30-19.30 Part II: **Research Workshop with Hella von Unger** (only registered participants)

Ethical Challenges in Biography Research: Examples from ongoing research projects of the participants.

19.30 -20.00 Closing Remarks

Chair: Irimi Siouti (Institute for Social Research Frankfurt) & Giorgos Tsiolis (University of Crete)

### **Organizers:**

Prof. Dr. Giorgos Tsiolis, Department of Sociology, University of Crete – Head of the Department, E-Mail: [tsiolisg@uoc.gr](mailto:tsiolisg@uoc.gr)

Prof. Dr. Irimi Siouti, Institute for Social Research Frankfurt/Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Speaker of the Section Biography Research, German Sociological Association E-Mail: [siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Riki Van Boeschoten, University of Thessaly, Chair of the Greek Oral History Association, E-Mail: [rvboes@gmail.com](mailto:rvboes@gmail.com)

The workshop is organized by the Greek Oral History Association and the Department of Sociology (University of Crete) in cooperation with the section Biography Research of the German Sociological Association, the RC 38 Biography and Society of the International Sociological Association.

Sektion  
Biographieforschung

In der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie



Biography  
and Society