



SASUF – YEBO!
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Ethics of Research in the digital age and COVID-19 era

**A practical example of ethical issues and protocols
in digital video research**



About me

- Psychological and Behavioural Science – Social norms and behavioural change (before: anthropology and cultural studies in Colombia and the UK)
- PhD from the London School of Economics (2020) – 9 years of experience as consultant and manager of behavioural change interventions
- Next: University of Pennsylvania, Center for Social Norms and Behavioural Dynamics

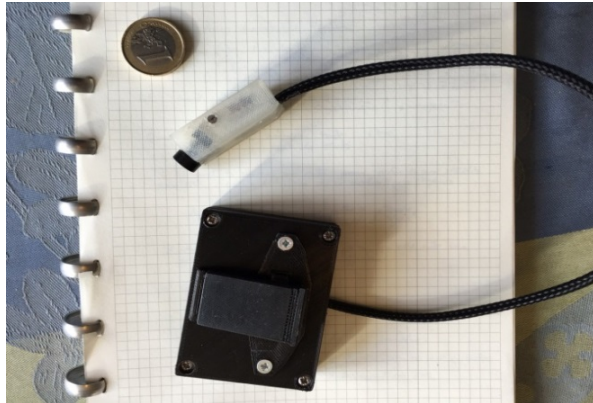
An example of ethical issues and protocols in digital video research



Department of
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Behavioural Science

Subjective Evidence-Based Ethnography (SEBE) Laboratory

Psychological research on people's behaviour and activity using first-person perspective video recordings and in-depth replay interviews.



the *subcam*





2017/08/25 14:24:09



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Why does this matter? (beyond psychological video research)

- *Complex ethical challenges:*
 - ✓ **People's everyday activities**
 - ✓ **Video recordings**
 - ✓ **“Very private and sensitive aspects of individual psychology” (Lahlou, 2011, p. 49)**
- *Many ethics' committees are not prepared / distrust this type of research (video of everyday activities)*

⇒ **Strict methodological/ethical stance and procedures**
that might inform other types of research with human participants



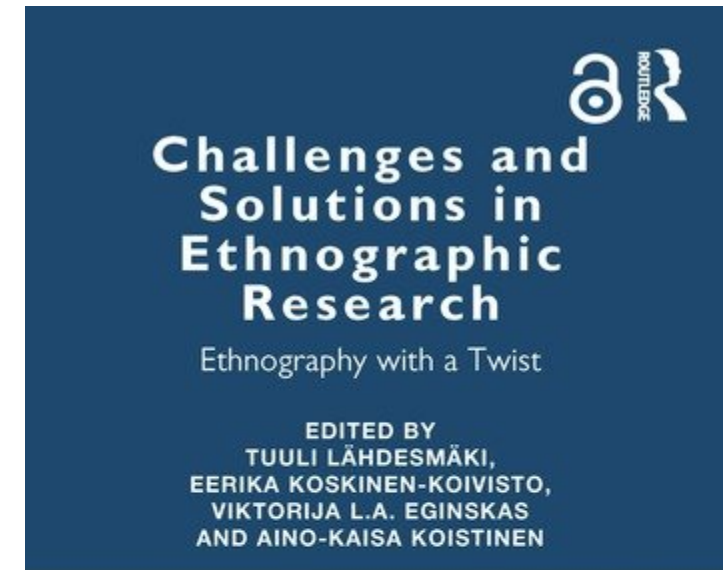
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Ethical challenges of using video for qualitative research and ethnography:

State of the art and prospective solutions

Marina Everri, Maxi Heitmayer, Paulius Yamin, Saadi Lahlou

- Important ethical challenges: anonymity and confidentiality, “objective depiction of reality” impression, no harm.
- Main areas of attention in the literature:
 - Researcher-researched rapport
 - Informed consent
 - Participant’s rights: anonymity, confidentiality, data ownership and release



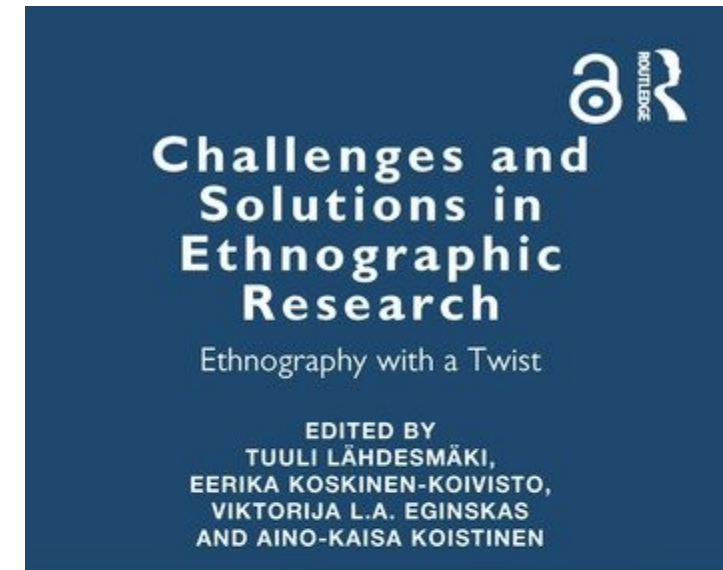
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- Tension between:
 - Setting general ethical standards, reviews and protocols
 - Reflexive and collaborative approaches



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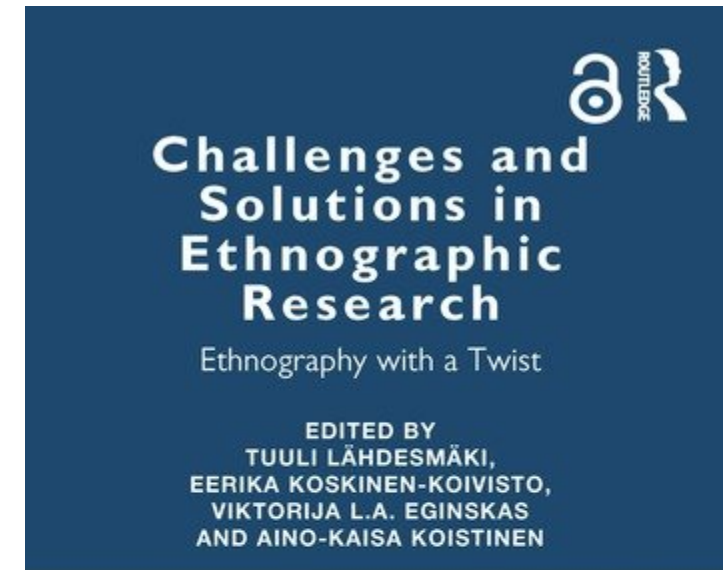
State of the art and prospective solutions

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- Tension between:
 - Setting general ethical standards, reviews and protocols
 - Safeguard for all challenges and contexts
 - Checklists and previous reviews
 - “Universal” – not always easy to adapt participant’s needs and concerns

Difficult – a children’s football match

Easy – an adult speaking about anything (if there’s consent)



Why does this matter? (beyond psychological video research)

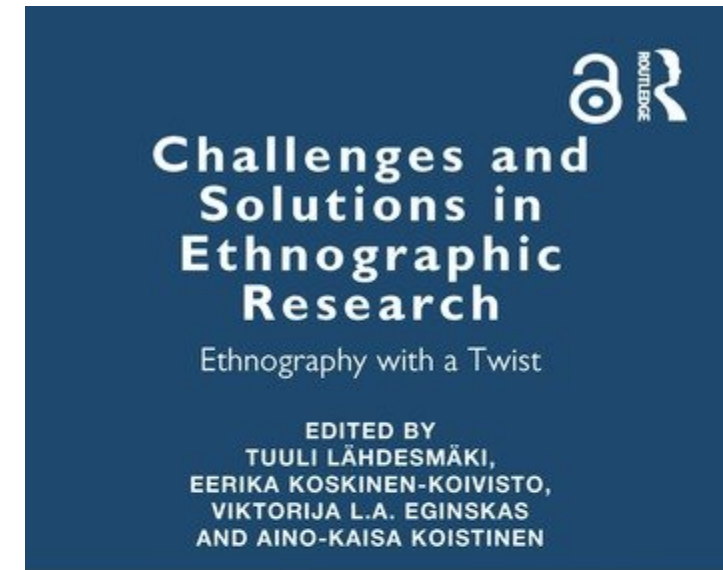
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- Tension between:
 - Reflexive and collaborative approaches
 - Context, problem and population specific
 - On-site, with people
 - Ongoing judgement and consent

No pre-defined or universal standards... Lengthy (maybe necessary) process without pre-defined methodological outcome



The SEBE protocol



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Buying [Gobbo]



Nuclear plant operation [Fauquet-Alekhine]



Police [Rieken]



Industrial maintenance [Le Bellu]



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- Participants as “co-researchers” or “the real experts” (not “subjects”, not even “participants”)
- Trust and dialogue

The RIW confronts “emic (informant’s) and etic (researcher’s) perspectives to find a description that is acceptable to both based on the display of shared evidence (the subcam film)” (Lahlou 2011)



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- Informed consents before starting any activity (including methods, possibility to withdraw at any time, anonymization and publication): *“collaborative decision-making process”* (Banks & Zeitlyn, 2015)
- Detailed ethical procedures and forms for committees and stakeholders
- “Participants” keep full control of their data, including the right to review, edit or delete any recording before the researchers sees them. Explanations as dialogue between researcher/researched



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- Anonymization procedures are offered to participants, including blurring faces and images, name changes and mute speech with subtitles (including *cast*)
- Data storage and protection plans (e.g. GDPR)
- Final disclosures, including materials, results and advice
- Separate contact and consent for publication



An example of ethical issues and protocols in digital video research



Not (only) a checklist

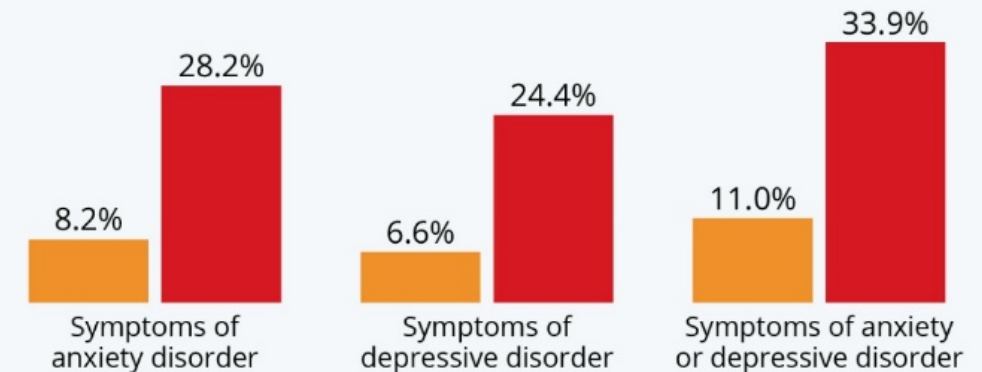
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Pandemic Causes Spike in Anxiety & Depression

% of U.S. adults showing symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder*

■ January-June 2019 ■ May 14-19, 2020



* Based on self-reported frequency of anxiety and depression symptoms. They are derived from responses to the first two questions of the eight-item Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-2) and the seven-item Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-2) scale.

Sources: CDC, NCHS, U.S. Census Bureau



statista



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Thank you!



<http://www.sebe-lab.net/>

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