Methodologies under Duress

From questions to data

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Research Question

Is there a relationship between social and political change and the ICT revolution in Africa?

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How is the ICT revolution changing the social fabric under duress at the level of :

(i) decision making and empowerment;
(ii) community formation (both social and political) and related feelings of belonging and trust; and
(iii) power relations?

What are the limits and possibilities for agency in a situation of duress and new ICT and will this lead to new processes of in- and exclusion?

Is the emic understanding of conflict, i.e. duress, changing with the advancement of social media and ICT?

What has been done so far concerning methodology?

- Workshops and their main conclusions: comparative methodology; what data do we gather?
- Interdisciplinarity: anthropology and history,
- Research under duress:
  - ✓ How does a researcher relate to the field (trust);
  - ✓ networks under duress, and how to study
- Anthropological methods: senses and visuals

CONNECTING IN TIMES OF DURESS

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Interdisciplinarity

'History, the last things before the last'

(Kracauer, 1969)

History and anthropology can use the same methods:

→ Oral history

→ Ethnography (in the archives!)

Research under duress

Our own (vulnerable) position in the field (physically and emotionally)

→ Safety protocol

Network approached research in conflict

→ Fluid fields (connected world)

→ Flexibility in approaching field

Anthropology of the Senses

- The (emotional) experience of conflict, hardship
  → *duress*

- Experience not expressed in words alone

- Hearing, touching, smelling...

Qualitative Methods

- Biography of individuals, family, networks, institutes:

- Participant Observation
- Interview
- Senses
  → Visuals: film and photography
  → Internet and the digital
  → Emotions

- Interrelation of these methods; triangulation

- Survey? Which quantitative data do we need?

- Methodology
- Subjectivity
- Phenomenology