

Ethics and Methodological Issues: Research and Training with Survivors of Conflict and post-Conflict Sexual Violence and Torture in Africa

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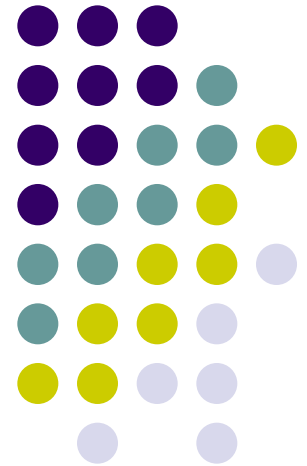
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Ethical and Methodological Issues: Research on Conflict and Post-Conflict Sexual Violence and Torture in Africa



**European Consortium for
Political Research
7-10th September 2016**

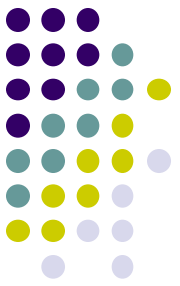
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Research in Uganda



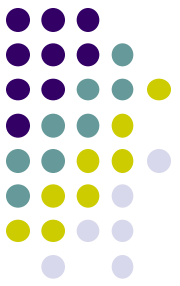
Ethical and Methodological Issues of PhD Research with Women Conflict Survivors (Liebling, 2009)



- **Collaboration with Isis-WICCE and community-based organisations**
- **Feminist/participatory/action methods**
- **Reflexivity**
- **Sensitivity: gender, power & culture**
- **Recruiting participants and safety**
- **Negotiating 'my position'**



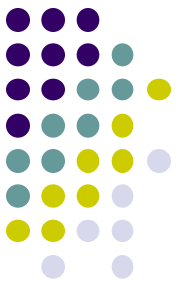
Ethical and Methodological Issues of PhD Research



- **Working with interpreters**
- **Payment for participants**
- **Identity and representing participants**
- **Equalising power relationships**
- **Informed consent**
- **Use of focus groups and empowerment**
- **Political context**

“Governance of Sexual Violence in northern Uganda”

(Liebling & Baker, 2010)

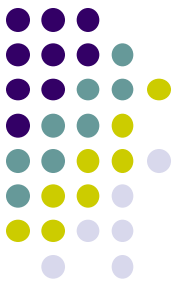


- Human rights abuses ongoing
- Kitgum Women’s Peace Initiative
- Stigma, shame and fear
- Number of participants
- Dissemination
- ‘Giving back’ to communities



“Experiences of Trauma Counselling Services in Northern Uganda: Implications for Mental Health Policy and Legislation”

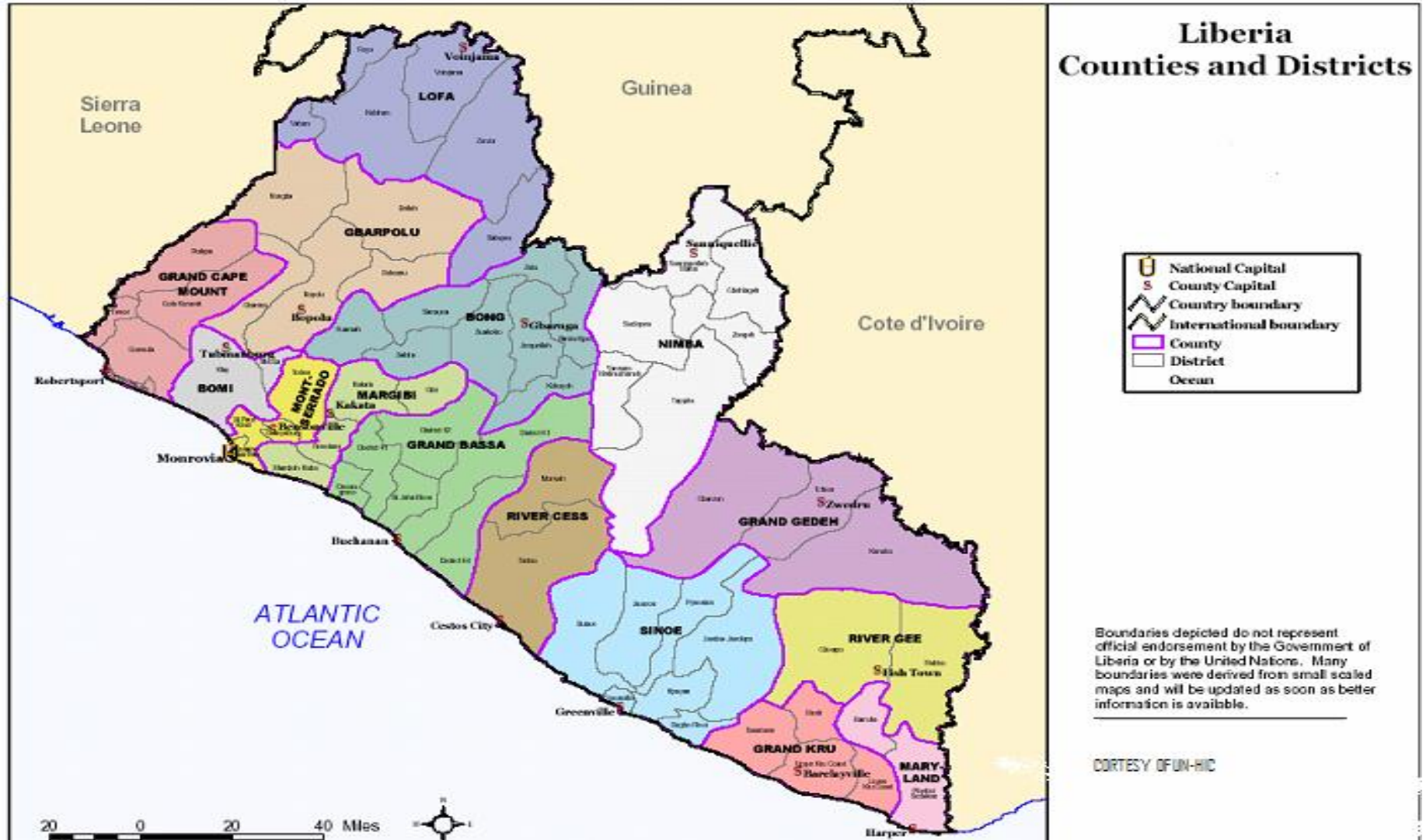
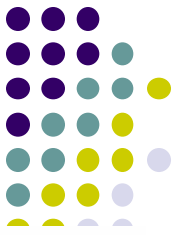
(Liebling & Davidson, 2013)



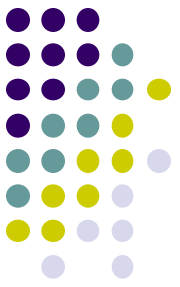
- **Ethics and research clearance**
- **Conflicting roles**
- **Individual interviews and methodology**
- **Care of researchers and interpreters**
- **Expectations of organisations**
- **Relationship building and time-scale**
- **Dissemination**



Research in Liberia



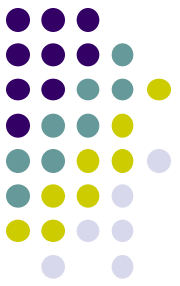
Research and Training in Liberia



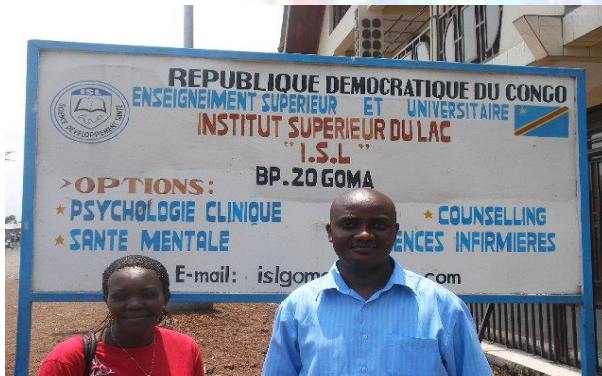
- **Research reviewer and policy documents.**
- **Training in Harper: increase capacity for medical and psychological support**
- **Medical Intervention (2009)**



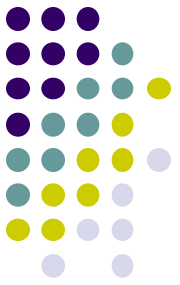
“Health and Justice Responses for Women and Girls Bearing Children from Rape: Case study of Goma, eastern DRC” (Liebling & Slegh, 2011)



- **Political context and security**
- **Ensuring safety: care of participants and researchers**
- **Sensitivity but challenging culture**



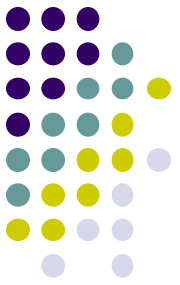
Research in eastern DRC



- **Managing competing demands**
- **Being fully briefed**
- **Managing researchers and participants feelings**
- **Dealing with risk issues**
- **Empowering participants**
- **Use of research diary**
- **Ethical processes and procedures**



Ethical Framework



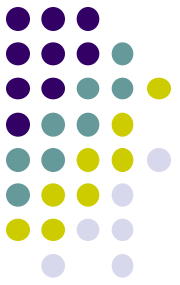
- **Close collaboration with organisations and community engagement essential**
- **Special attention to study feasibility**
- **Harm/Benefit analysis**
- **Political agendas**
- **Ethical processes and procedures**
- **Sustainability and Impact**
- **Culture and traditions**

Concluding Guidance



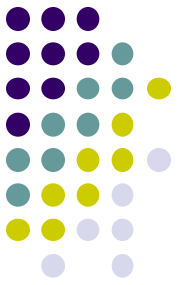
- **Research consistent with international human rights: strategies that strengthen efforts to combat impunity**
- **Reflexivity and negotiation for challenging ethical issues: best interests of participants**
- **International research strategy**
- **Increased awareness, training and capacity building**
- **Empowering methods**
- **Sharing practice and experience**
- **Duty of care for participants and research team**

Concluding Guidance



- 1. Benefits of documenting sexual violence greater than risks**
- 2. Research presents least risk to participants, good methods and builds on evidence**
- 3. Basic care locally available**
- 4. Safety and security paramount**
- 5. Confidentiality when disclosure of human rights abuses must be protected**
- 6. Informed consent always obtained**
- 7. Research team carefully selected and trained**
- 8. Additional safeguards if children are involved**

World Health Organization (2007)



Thank you for listening
Any Questions?

