



<https://www.routledge.com/Transformations-in-Social-Science-Research-Methods-during-the-COVID-19-Pandemic/Ryan-Visanich-Brandle/p/book/9781032646817>

Editor

Biography

J. Michael Ryan is an award-winning teacher who has held academic positions at top-ranked universities across five continents. He is currently Professor-Researcher at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru and has previously held academic positions in Ecuador, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Portugal, and the USA. He is the founding editor of Routledge's *The COVID-19 Pandemic series*.

Valerie Visanich is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Malta, Malta.

Gaspar Brändle is Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Murcia, Spain.

Description

This volume explores how researchers made innovative use of online technologies to innovate, define, and transform research methodologies in light of the varying impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those related to the ability to conduct qualitative research.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a radical shift in the way that people all over the world were/have been able to live, work, study, and conduct their daily lives. Academics and other professionals who routinely engage in research were no exception. The sudden, continued, and uneven need for health mandates calling for physical distancing added a particular layer of complexity for those who used research methods that typically required face-to-face interactions. Continued technological developments associated with the Internet had already given rise to ongoing debates on innovative methodological thinking and practices. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accentuated how indispensable the internet has become for the private and public lives of those with access to it, including for their employment, education, leisure, and social interactions. For those fortunate enough to have access to them, communication software such as Zoom and Google Meet have also become indispensable digital resources for researchers seeking to continue conducting research during lockdowns and quarantines, and beyond. More than ever, researchers are finding it useful, even necessary, to equip themselves with online research tools in order to be able to continue conducting their fieldwork.

Drawing on research and case studies from around the world, this volume serves as a guidebook for those interested in attuning their own research methods to a world still struggling to grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table of Contents

1. Accommodating and adapting research during the COVID-19 pandemic

J. Michael Ryan, Valerie Visanich and Gaspar Brändle

Section I: Developing pandemic sensitivities

2. Developing social psychological theory and methods in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Rusi Jaspal and Glynis M. Breakwell

3. Distance discourses: The focus group through digital platforms

Miguel Angel Sánchez-García, Isabel María Cutillas Fernández and Marta Latorre Catalán

4. Batman Gżirjan: Continually revisiting the artistic qualitative research approaches

Kristina Borg

5. Researching language and communication during the COVID-19 pandemic: A linguistic duo-ethnography

Sarah Hopkyns and Melanie van den Hoven

Section II: Innovative pandemic methods

6. Disruptions and innovations in sports research during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Renzo Kerr-Cumbo, Valerie Visanich and Matthew Muscat-Inglott

7. Equitable collaborations: Modelling innovative public health research during a pandemic

Najmah, Sharyn Graham Davies, Kusnan, Sari Andajani and Tom Graham Davies

8. Interviews that heal: Situated resilience and the adaptation of qualitative interviewing during lockdowns

Kerman Calvo, Ester Bejarano and Ignacio de Loyola González-Salgado

Section III: Critical pandemic methodologies

9. Remote interviewing during a global pandemic. A methodological reflection on an ICT-mediated qualitative study implemented during COVID-19 confinement periods

Concetta Russo

10. The impact of COVID-19 on postgraduate classroom-based research: An African perspective

Rose Acen Upor

11. Reflections on methodological reconsiderations and ethical procedures of a postdoctoral researcher

Evelyn Penfold

12. Troubled waters, fisherman's gain: A critical reflection on carrying out multi-sited research in times of COVID-19

Carlos Manuel Abaunza

7

EQUITABLE COLLABORATIONS

Modelling innovative public health research during a pandemic

*Najmah, Sharyn Graham Davies, Kusnan, Sari And
Tom Graham Davies*

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a radical rethink around approaches to research. No longer could teams of researchers meet in-person, travel to the field, or interact physically with participants. As Long et al (2023) show, the COVID-19 pandemic was a collective critical event that called into question established ways of imagining what research looks like and how it should be conducted. Many researchers took these changes in their stride, showing creativity and ingenuity to turn a challenge into an opportunity. Qualitative researchers returned to the value of online surveys, which could be quickly disseminated and returned with rich and verbose text (Dekert et al 2021). COVID diaries, participatory action research, and citizen-science projects all created opportunities for the collection of rich data in ways not hitherto possible. Changes in approaches to research have

7 Equitable Collaborations

Modelling innovative public health research during a pandemic

Najmah, Sharyn Graham Davies, Kusnan, Sari Andajani & Tom Graham Davies

Abstract

Timely government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic needed to be informed by rapid research results. But many traditional methods of collecting, analysing and publishing data were no longer feasible during a time of lockdowns and travel restrictions. New ways of working were thus established by many research teams. In this chapter, we outline the approach our research team took to develop and publish research findings aimed at informing the Indonesian government's policy response to COVID-19. Our research, undertaken by an interdisciplinary team based in Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, reworked established research methods to enable us to continue our research. We also sought equitable ways of collaborating virtually that developed trust and rapport amongst researchers and amongst participants in COVID safe ways. Our team additionally worked to ensure that our research reached and benefited those whose stories we collected and shared.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a radical rethink around approaches to conducting research. No longer could teams of researchers meet in-person, travel to the field or interact physically with participants. As Long et al (2023) show, the COVID-19 pandemic was a collective critical event that called into question established ways of imagining what research looks like and how it should be conducted. Many researchers took these changes in their stride, showing creative ingenuity to turn a challenge into an opportunity. Qualitative researchers were awakened to the value of online surveys, which could be quickly disseminated and returned with rich and verbose text (Dekert, et al. 2021). COVID diaries, pandemic comics and citizen-science projects all created opportunities for the collection and analysis of rich data in ways not hitherto undertaken (Gailloux, 2022).

Changes in approaches to research also saw an opening up of international collaborations (Pradhan, et al. 2021). Once, academics based at wealthy Western universities travelled to field sites in lower income countries, collected data, and then often returned to their home university to publish outputs with little inclusion or acknowledgement of local partners. During the height of the pandemic, lockdowns and travel restrictions meant this way of doing research was impossible, yet research was still urgent. What emerged in this gap was in many ways a fairer form of research, where international partners had, by necessity, to work more equitably together (Norton, et al. 2020).

Research engagement with participants also changed during the height of COVID-19 pandemic (Holroyd, et al. 2022). Qualitative researchers could no longer spend time in-person building rapport. Rather, researcher-participant relationships had to be developed at a distance, either through physical distancing or, more often, through virtual points of connection such as via social media, Zoom and WhatsApp (Envuladu, et al. 2022; Najmah and Davies 2020).

What additionally emerged in this space was an urgent investment by people in the impact of COVID-19 research (Mouter, Hernandez and Itten 2021). As people saw loved ones die before their eyes, communities demanded research that could halt the spread of COVID-19. But at the same time that people were demanding scientific research, suspicion of scientists grew (Hamilton and Safford 2021). Suspicion around governments also increased, particularly in countries such as Indonesia

where there was already a low rate of trust in the government (Wirawan, et al. 2021). Indeed, in Indonesia, mainstream media filled with articles spreading vaccine misinformation (Ningtyas 2021), fake news (Muzykant, et al. 2021), and inciting blame against governments and scientists for the uncontrolled spread of infection (Idris, Nuurrianti and Salleh 2020). Many academics tried to step up here and provide governments with research-led data, and crucially provide citizens with easily digestible COVID-19 health information, a role that academics demonstrably assumed in countries such as New Zealand (Lesley, et al. 2020).

In this chapter, we explore three methodological innovations. First, we examine how research methods were adapted to take advantage of new ways of working remotely. Second, we investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic opened opportunities for working equitably across international space. Third, we explore how research teams were able to develop trust and rapport with participants in COVID safe ways. The importance of establishing trust with participants was crucial not just for collecting data but also to enable us as researchers to act as liaisons between citizens and government, in both feeding research findings to governments to impact policy, and also in disseminating findings in avenues accessible to people.

While we draw on international work on COVID-19 to develop our points, we base this chapter explicitly on a research collaboration we developed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that focused on Indonesia. Indonesia has been hard hit by COVID-19. As of March, 2023, there had been almost seven million recorded cases of COVID-19 and 161,000 recorded deaths in the country (Worldmeters 2023). This number of cases and deaths is likely to be vastly underreported though (Mathieu, et al. 2020). As second author, Sharyn Davies, found out from first-hand experience of contracting COVID-19 in Indonesia in November 2022, it is difficult and expensive to get a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. For those wealthy enough, a mobile test unit can come to a person's residence, deliver the test and text the results to the patient's phone within 24. But this costs around US\$40, a high rate when compared to the average weekly salary which is less than US\$200 (CEIC 2023). People can go personally to a clinic and get tested for around half this amount but there are transport costs and long wait times involved. Further, people who are sick with COVID-19 do not want to travel, and those who are unsure of their status do not want to risk catching COVID-19 at a testing station.

As a result of these barriers, combined with the penalties applied if you test positive (e.g. many places of employment require a clear PCR test before returning to work which means additional costly testing), it is likely that a substantial number of people in Indonesia do not get a PCR test, nor declare a positive Rapid Antigen Test. Added to these barriers is the fact that Indonesia's population of 274 million people is spread across 6000 islands, most of which do not have the healthcare facilities needed to test for COVID-19 (Suahya 2020).

Evidence of the underreporting of Indonesian cases and deaths will likely become apparent in statistics around excess deaths, with anecdotal evidence already suggesting that COVID-19 deaths are being reported erroneously as deaths from tuberculosis, influenza or asthma, as was suggested informally to Sharyn Davies during her November 2022 trip to Indonesia. Sharyn was told that this misreporting occurs because of the shame for the family of having a member die from COVID-19, and the added difficulty and expense of related activities once COVID-19 has been confirmed as the cause of death (see also Najmah and Davies (2021)). For instance, Muslims must be buried as quickly as possible and protocols around a COVID-19 death can delay a burial, and an autopsy can add significant expense (Gabay and Tarabeih 2022). Another story of Najmah's uncle, Hasan (Pseudonym), Hasan's son could bury his father in a public funeral, but he needed to sign an agreement letter not to tell anyone that Hasan passed away and was diagnosed with COVID-19 in one of public hospitals. If the information was spread, Hasan's son would be detained. While

Indonesia is missing from *The Economist* (2023) list tracking COVID-19 excess deaths, it is likely that once data is collated, Indonesia will feature highly.

The enormity of the COVID-19 problem in Indonesia required rapid research to understand how communities were responding to government health mandates, and to inform governments what people needed to help keep themselves safe. Lead-author of this chapter, Najmah, who is based at the University of Sriwijaya in Indonesia, felt compelled to collect data about people's experiences in order to urgently inform government policy, and to also produce health material that was understandable by local people, including by publishing material in local languages. Najmah gathered around her a group of scholars from the University of Sriwijaya and then reached out to her former PhD supervisors Sharyn Davies and Sari Andajani, and other colleagues including Yeni, Tom Davies, Kusnan, Fenty Aprina, Maulidinda and Zico to collaborate on a large research project – it is worth noting here for clarity that many Indonesians only have one name. In the remainder of this chapter, we examine how this team of researchers, spread across Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, were able to produce research data that helped inform government policy and crucially provided people in Indonesia with accessible health research findings.

Adapting research methods

In the early stages of the pandemic the research team needed to think quickly about how to adapt research methods to ensure production of quality outputs. The team has expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research methods and a decision was made to draw on our strengths and adapt these methods to be compliant with COVID-19 health mandates. While traditional ethnography often involves living in close quarters with participants to get an in-depth understanding of their everyday lives, we dissected ethnography to its constituent parts and adapted those individual methods. For instance, instead of long-term participant observation, a mainstay of ethnography, when strict lockdown protocols abated somewhat we conducted **go-along interviews**. These interviews involved the researcher physically walking along with the participant outside and keeping a two-meter distance. In this way, the pair could limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission while still discussing the research topic in a relaxed way. With the consent of the participant, the interview was recorded to allow the researcher to later transcribe the audio recording.

Given the urgency of feeding people's needs into government policy, our research drew on the paradigm of **participatory action research**. Participatory action research is a collaborative research approach that involves active participation from the community or stakeholders who are affected by the research. This approach recognizes that the people who are most affected by an issue or problem are the best experts on their own experiences and can contribute valuable insights and knowledge to the research process. Participatory action research typically involves a cyclical process of reflection, action, and analysis. The community or stakeholders work with researchers to identify a research question, collect data, and analyze the findings. The goal of participatory action research is to produce knowledge and action that is useful and relevant to the community or stakeholders involved (Baum, MacDougall and Smith 2006).

While participatory action research is often conducted when physically meeting with people, we adapted this approach to ensure it was COVID safe. For instance, we used WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to create a community where people could share their views. We also used these applications to provide messages to people that would help them better understand health protocols and the very real benefit of getting vaccinated. For instance, there were high levels of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and even COVID-19 denial amongst communities in Indonesia (Najmah and Davies 2021). As Najmah and the team had already created a sense of trust with the research participants, we were able to use WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to both collect information

about why people denied the existence of COVID-19, and also share information to help communities understand the risk of COVID-19 and the benefit of vaccination. The team then worked together with communities to help keep everyone as safe as possible (Najmah and Davies 2020).

A further method the team adapted was a **mixed method approach**. We were able to do a rapid analysis of government statements on COVID-19 posted online, analyse secondary data that was officially released by health departments, and conduct online interviews with healthcare workers to develop both a predictive model of COVID-19 in Indonesia, and a qualitative understanding of vaccine hesitancy and COVID-19 denial (Najmah, Davies and Yeni 2020). While the secondary data analysis was not a new method inspired by COVID-19 restrictions, inviting healthcare workers to do interviews online, and have them accept, was an important development in producing rapid research outputs.

A final method we adapted was used when we conducted research with a particularly vulnerable group of people, pregnant women living with HIV who needed to seek treatment during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The method we adapted was **visual participatory methods**. Visual participatory methods are a set of techniques and tools that use visual media to engage people in collaborative research, planning, and decision-making processes. These methods involve the use of various types of visual aids such as maps, diagrams, photographs, videos, drawings, and other visual media to facilitate communication and engagement. Visual participatory methods aim to create a participatory environment where everyone involved in a project, program or initiative can express their ideas and opinions, and actively engage in the process of decision-making. By using visual media, visual participatory methods enable participants to express their views and experiences in a more tangible and accessible way, which can be particularly useful in cross-cultural settings or when dealing with complex and abstract concepts. Some examples of visual participatory methods include community mapping, photo-voice, and participatory video. The use of visual participatory methods provides a way for stakeholders to collaborate and share ideas in a creative and meaningful way (Lorenz and Kolb 2009, Mitchell and Sommer 2020).

In our study, women living with HIV were engaged in creating evidence about their health and well-being during the pandemic, and in co-developing modes of disseminating knowledge produced. As a specific example, the team, including the women participants, wanted to understand the stigma associated with both HIV and COVID-19, and so we collectively developed poems, song lyrics, and mind maps. Additionally, eight videos were collaboratively produced, and with the women's consent were uploaded onto YouTube to provide support for other women and to be available to policy makers (Najmah, Kusnan and T. G. Davies, et al. 2023). It is important to note that no identifying features of the women are included in the films and to ensure this, the women created puppets that stand in lieu of their faces (Najmah, Kusnan and T. G. Davies, et al. 2023). Visual participatory methods proved to be especially valuable in enabling researchers and participants to connect during times of mandated physical distancing (Webb and Bedi 2021).

Opportunities for working equitably across international space

Research outputs are dominated by Western universities (Top Universities 2023). These outputs have traditionally exploited the labour and resources of scholars in lower income countries (MacLeod and Urquiola 2021). But when COVID-19 hit, academic movements were reduced and other ways of working had to be established. Western-based academics researching less-wealthy nations had to rely on others to source participants, collect data, and provide the analytical context. Co-authorship became something that academics in less wealthy countries could now have more power in demanding. Structural changes too have made it easier for non-Western academics to claim authorship. Proactively, some leading universities have weighted co-authored articles as highly as sole-authored ones. For instance, Monash university, where Sharyn Davies is based, demands

academics meet annual publication targets but it no longer matters whether these publications are sole-authored or multi-authored. As such the incentive for academics to publish on their own is eliminated. But this may remain an exception rather than the rule as other universities continue to privilege sole-authorship and co-authorship can jeopardise an academic's promotion chances (Lantermann and Blithe 2019, Tilche and Astuti 2020). Research approval boards are also contributing to a changing research scene. For instance, Indonesia's research permit authorisation body, the National Research and Innovation Agency, has now mandated that foreign researchers must pledge to publish all outputs with Indonesian co-authors attributed (BRIN 2023).

Clear evidence has emerged of research teams able to harness technological developments to push for equitable international collaborations. Nick Long et al (2023) write of how they were able to pull together a research team with people based in four different time zones. Most of this team had never met before and so without the affordances of COVID-19 such a team would not have developed. This research experiment also showed what can be achieved with little funding. Without the need to pay for travel, accommodation and room hire, Long's team needed only a device and internet connection to share with each other COVID-19 responses in their respective countries. This collaboration resulted in outputs that influenced policy in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Ireland and New Zealand, and explored the experiences of Indonesians abroad (Martin-Anatias, et al. 2021).

COVID-19 also inspired new ways of writing. While academics had long co-written pieces while physically apart from each other, with draft versions being emailed back and forth, the uptake of virtual meetings spaces such as Zoom, and platforms such as Google Docs, allowed teams to work together simultaneously but apart (Aikman, et al. 2023, Long, et al. 2023). Different time zones could also work in a team's favour to allow them to meet tight deadlines; as one researcher finished for the day, another awoke to start work.

According to Zaman et al. (2020) a long-term commitment to the research partnership involves building and investing in research capacity for the future – including training local researchers and research assistants including university students and field workers (such as health workers) – in order to broaden their skill base and improve future opportunities (p. 760). Based on the experience of Envuladu et al. (2022), who were part of the African Translational Research Group (ATRG), research collaboration with a multi-disciplinary international and local team can help the group maintain productivity, contribute to career progression and the academic promotion of research members, and provide a space for members to learn about effective teamwork, communication and the online coordination of a research collective.

In terms of our research team, we found that these new COVID-19-related restrictions and technological developments propelled a more equitable way of working. For instance, being on the ground meant Indonesian researchers could collect primary data and provide the subtle nuance needed to produce contextually rich articles. Researchers for whom English was their native language could then ensure articles were written and argued with the precision needed for journal acceptance in an incredibly competitive international publishing world. Taking advantage of respective strengths, and the new flexible research arrangements established during COVID-19, also provided space for early career researchers to receive mentoring and have their name included on outputs. We also drew on our interdisciplinary strengths, including qualitative and quantitative skill sets, to add depth to our research design. Collective writing from these diverse backgrounds added depth to our outputs.

After reflection amongst our research team, members noted they had grown to appreciate the importance of academic writing and the additional insights experts from different academic

backgrounds could provide. The team also appreciated the value of creating equal opportunities to be first author, and the importance of ensuring roles such as building trust among participants. The team also reflected on the importance of self-analysis, and developing an awareness of everyone's position vis-a-vis the research project. Additionally, the team recognised acutely that the knowledge and experiences participants brought to the research was invaluable and that they were 'real knowers' and 'experts' in their life contexts (Lykes and Coquillon 2007).

Developing trust and rapport with participants

One of the challenges of doing research has always been developing trust and rapport with participants (Wilkinson 2017). Ethnographers, for instance, typically spend a long time in the field to develop relationships with people but this was not possible during COVID-19 social restrictions. New ways of developing trust and rapport thus had to be developed. Building trust and recognizing the respective strengths of research collaborators were essential elements of the process and of particular importance to developing equitable partnerships (Envuladu, et al. 2022). For our research project, the Indonesia based team spent significant time cultivating an online community of participants, developing virtual platforms for engagement and discussion. The two platforms we most regularly used were WhatsApp and Facebook messenger.

Co-creation is a collaborative innovation where ideas are shared and improved together rather than by a single researcher (Pater and Veenhoff 2021). This approach to research includes the adoption of open-ended research goals, a willingness to adapt to unpredictable and continually changing circumstances, and a commitment to an opening adhering to participants' and co-researchers' preferences (Gailloux, et al. 2022).

Collaborative co-creation research also involves empowering participants, in our case women, to be co-researchers and to carry out some aspects of complex tasks such as data collection and analysis. While the bulk of our team's research activities were conducted virtually between 2020 and 2022, a critical aspect that emerged was the need to work with the closest members of the large-scale collaborative research team, including women in Najmah's neighbourhood. Najmah led online and in-person discussions with women to develop mutual research foci. These discussions and intimate involvement of women in the research design and process, resulted in women feeling empowered to be critical elements of the larger research project. A key aim of this groundwork was to establish trust and rapport with women to ensure the success of the endeavour we called *Penyuluhan Keliling Anak*.

Penyuluhan Keliling Anak was a virtual community that was developed to raise children's awareness of COVID-19 and how to limit its spread. When COVID-19 restrictions were eased, the *Penyuluhan Keliling Anak* became a mobile community that visited schools and community centres. Najmah and the Indonesian based team gathered a collective of community volunteers committed to raising consciousness about the severity of COVID-19 and disseminating information about how to help prevent infection. This community allowed researchers and participants to share their concerns and worries in a physically and emotionally safe space. *Penyuluhan Keliling Anak* took advantage of the fact that COVID-19 had shifted the world so profoundly that the expertise of researcher and participant often collapsed with the participant being the expert.

The *Penyuluhan Keliling Anak* community enabled people to see the respective worries of the researcher and the participant and this helped to break down traditional power differentials. The team then became a site to provide support to each other as all members were going through an unprecedented experience. *Penyuluhan Keliling Anak* developed to also become a space where academics could talk about the quilt they felt trying to juggle family and work commitments, as outlined by Lobo (2015). It also became a space where researchers and participants could reflect on the extra burden that COVID-19 placed on women, as Walters et al. (2021) reveals. The flexibility of these new COVID-19 research protocols also helped key researchers manage competing

responsibilities, including Najmah who had to juggle both a demanding academic career alongside care for her three young children.

In addition to the challenge of virtually creating trust and rapport with research participants was the fact that during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Indonesia developed high rates of dissatisfaction with government officials. For many in Indonesia, the government could not be trusted to implement effective health protocols. Consequently, researchers and universities had to work extra hard to obtain society's trust and support in order for their recommendations regarding health and safety vis-à-vis COVID-19 public health to be taken seriously (Algan, et al. 2021). It quickly became well established that pandemic-related anxiety and perceptions of health threats were associated with a lower level of generalized distrust by ordinary Indonesians (Thoresen, et al. 2021). The successful implementation of public health policies and their supporting research requires a high degree of public trust in institutions (Mihelj, Kondor and Štětka 2022). Given the high level of public distrust, and being a research team with qualitative research expertise, we proposed a public health research model that placed self-disclosure, openness, and participant methodological co-creation at its core.

The particular research collaboration we are discussing here resulted in 16 publications between 2020 and 2023. While we focused on academic, peer-reviewed outputs, we also recognised the importance of ensuring our research was accessible to communities and policy makers. Further, as we needed to get our research published as quickly as possible to ensure timely impact, we did not always have the option of peer-reviewed outputs which require long timeframes for revisions and final approval. There was also the added difficulty of ensuring that our scholarly work was not behind a pay-wall, which means that unless readers have access to a university of the significant funds needed to pay for the free access version, they cannot be read.

In Indonesia, distrust in the government is frequently high, and this was particularly the case during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, university-level research became critical to obtaining support amongst citizens for measures needed to protect public health. The Indonesian government was rightly criticised for its lack-lustre response to COVID-19. Headlines accused the Indonesian government of "Denial of COVID-19" (Lindsey and Mann 2020), "Little transparency in COVID-19 outbreaks" (Human Rights Watch 2020), and "Indonesia is a new COVID-19 epicenter" (Combs 2021). In this gap, university researchers came to be trusted members of the elite which people could trust regarding how to keep themselves safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

Google Scholar reports more than five million articles with COVID-19 appearing in the title as of April 2023. This extraordinary production of knowledge in less than four years signifies both the dramatic impact COVID-19 has had on the world and also the success at which researchers across the world have been able to adapt to the challenges lockdowns and travel restrictions have placed on our ability to conduct research in traditional ways. This chapter has tried to showcase four elements where our research team adapted to the challenges of conducting international and interdisciplinary research on public healthcare (See Appendix 1 for a list of outputs).

We adapted research methods to take advantage of new innovations. We sought to develop an equitable way of collaborating virtually that drew on our respective strengths. For instance, the Indonesia based team had most ready access to participants and data, and the language ability needed to analyse government documents and social media posts. The Australia and New Zealand base team could draw on their strengths of data analysis skills and ability to write with a level of English proficiency demanded by publication outlets. The team worked to develop trust and rapport amongst participants in COVID safe ways by using technology-based tools such as Zoom, WhatsApp and Facebook Messengers, and when protocols allowed go-along interviews could be conducted in-

person. Our team additionally worked to ensure that our research reached and benefited those whose stories we collected and shared. We hope that some of our experiences might be useful and of interest to others.

Bibliography

- Aikman, P J, E Fehoko, E Holroyd, E Jivraj, M Laws, N Martin-Anatias, R Pukepukē, et al. 2023. "The research imagination during COVID-19: Rethinking norms of group size and authorship in anthropological and anthropology-adjacent collaborations." *Anthropological Forum: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Comparative Sociology* 32 (4): 351-370.
- Algan, Y D, D Cohen, E Davoine, and S Stantcheva. 2021. "Trust in scientists in times of pandemic: Panel evidence from 12 countries." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.210857611>.
- Amsler, Mark, and Cris Shore. 2015. "Responsibilisation and leadership in the neoliberal university: a New Zealand perspective." *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education* 38 (1): 123-137.
- Baum, F, C MacDougall, and D Smith. 2006. "Participatory action research." *Journal of epidemiology and community health* 60 (10): 854.
- BRIN. 2023. *National Research and Innovation Agency*. <https://www.brin.go.id/en>.
- CEIC. 2023. *Indonesia Monthly Earnings, 1991 – 2023 | CEIC Data*. <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/indonesia/monthly-earnings>.
- Combs, S. 2021. "Indonesia is a new COVID-19 epicenter. The peak has yet to come." *National Geographic*.
- Davies, S G, and Najmah. 2020. "Im/moral Healthcare: HIV and Universal Health Coverage in Indonesia." 2 (2)." *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters* 2 (20).
- Dekert, A, N J Long, P J Aikman, N S Appleton, S Davies, E Fehoko, E Holroyd, et al. 2021. "Safer communities ... together? Plural policing and COVID-19 public health interventions." *Aotearoa New Zealand. Policing and Society*. doi: DOI:10.1080/10439463.2021.1924169.
- Envuladu, E A, A Chundung, R O Miner, L Uchechukwu, K P Osuagwu, C M Mashige, and E K A Amiebenomo. 2022. "International research collaboration during the pandemic: Team formation, challenges, strategies and achievements of the african translational research group." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 21.
- Gabay, G, and M Tarabeih. 2022. "Death from COVID-19, Muslim death rituals and disenfranchised grief—A patient-centered care perspective." *OMEGA—Journal of Death and Dying* 1–22. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221085175>.
- Gailloux, C, W W Furness, C C Myles, D S Wiley, and K Collins. 2022. "Fieldwork without the field: Navigating qualitative research in pandemic times." *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 6. doi:<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.750409>.
- Hamilton, L C, and T G Safford. 2021. "Elite cues and the rapid decline in trust in science agencies on COVID-19." *Sociological Perspectives* 64 (5): 988-1011.
- Holroyd, E, N J Long, N S Appleton, S G Davies, A Deckert, E Fehoko, M Laws, et al. 2022. "'Safer communities ... together'? Plural policing and COVID-19 public health interventions in Aotearoa New Zealand." *Policing and Society* 31 (5): 621-637. doi:DOI:10.1080/10439463.2021.1924169.

- Human Rights Watch. 2020. *Indonesia: Little Transparency in COVID-19 Outbreak*. 6 11. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/09/indonesia-little-transparency-covid-19-outbreak>.
- Idris, I K, J Nuurrianti, and S M Salleh. 2020. "How blaming others dominates Indonesian and Malaysian twitterspheres during COVID-19 pandemic." *The Conversation*.
- Lanterman, J, and S J Blithe. 2019. "'The Benefits, Challenges, and Disincentives of Interdisciplinary Collaboration'." *Commoning Ethnography* (2): 149-65. doi:<https://doi.org/10.26686/ce.v2i1.5399>.
- Lesley, G, C MacDonald, N Tassell-Matamua, S James, A Kvalsvig, J Zhang, S Murton, et al. 2020. "Wearing one for the team: views and attitudes to face covering in New Zealand/Aotearoa during COVID-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown." *Journal of Primary Health Care* (12): 199-206.
- Lindsey, T, and T Mann. 2020. *Indonesia was in denial over coronavirus. Now it may be facing a looming disaster*. 6 11. <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/news/alc/indonesia-was-in-denial-over-coronavirus.-now-it-may-be-facing-a-looming-disaster>.
- Lobo, G L. 2015. "Academic Guilt." In *How to Build a Life in the Humanities: Meditations on the Academic Work-Life Balance*, edited by Greg Colón Semenza, 83-90. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Lobo, G L. 2015. "Academic Guilt." In *How to Build a Life in the Humanities: Meditations on the Academic Work-Life Balance*, edited by Greg Colón Semenza and Garrett A Sullivan Jr., 83-90. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Long, N J, A Hunter, N Appleton, S G Davies, A Deckert, R Sterling, L Tunufa'i, et al. 2023. "The research imagination during COVID-19: Rethinking norms of group size and authorship in anthropological and anthropology-adjacent collaborations." *Journal of Social Anthropology and Comparative Sociology* 32 (4): 351-370. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/00664677.2023.2169250>.
- Lorenz, L, and B Kolb. 2009. "Involving the public through participatory visual methods." *Health Expectations* 12 (3): 262-274. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1369-7625.2009.00560.x>.
- Lykes, M B, and E Coquillon. 2007. "Participatory and action research and feminisms: Towards transformative praxis." In *Handbook of feminist research: Theory and praxis*, edited by S. N. Hesse-Biber, 297-326. SAGE Publications.
- MacLeod, W B, and M Urquiola. 2021. "Why does the United States have the best research universities? Incentives, resources, and virtuous circles." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 35 (1): 185-206.
- Martin-Anatias, N, N J Long, P J Aikman, N S Appleton, S G Davies, E Holroyd, N Jivraj, et al. 2021. "Safer communities ... together? Plural policing and COVID-19 public health interventions in Aotearoa New Zealand." *Policing and Societ*. doi:DOI:10.1080/10439463.2021.1924169.
- Mathieu, E, H Ritchie, L Rodés-Guirao, C Appel, C Giattino, J Hasell, B Macdonald, et al. 2020. *Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)*. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- Mihelj, S K, K Kondor, and V Štětka. 2022. "Establishing Trust in Experts During a Crisis: Expert Trustworthiness and Media Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Science Communication* (44) 3: :292–319.

- Mitchell, C M, and M Sommer. 2020. "Participatory Visual Methodologies in Global Public Health." *Global Public Health* 11 (5-6): 521-527.
- Mouter, N, J I Hernandez, and A V Itten. 2021. "Public participation in crisis policymaking. How 30,000 Dutch citizens advised their government on relaxing COVID-19 lockdown measures." *PLoS One* 16 (5).
- Muzykant, V L, M A Muq̄sith, R R Pratomo, and V Barabash. 2021. "Fake news on COVID-19 in Indonesia." *Pandemic Communication and Resilience* 363 - 378.
- Najmah. 2021. *The voice of 3 mothers who was stigmatized by B20 (HIV)*.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvuVKfgRvhw>.
- Najmah, Kusnan, and S G Davies. 2021. "Endless stigma of HIV and COVID-19." *Inside Indonesia*.
<https://www.insideindonesia.org/etendless-stigma-of-hiv-and-covid-19>.
- . 2023. "Vaccine Uptake in Indonesia." <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/20331-117/>.
- Najmah, SG Davies. 2022. HIV and COVID-19: Voice from women in Indonesia (South Sumatera Context). A booklet a collaboration among Australia Global Alumni, Monash University and Sriwijaya University. Retrieved in https://bridges.monash.edu/articles/report/HIV_Covid-19_in_Indonesia/19289078
- Najmah, and S G Davies. 2021. "What's behind Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy in Indonesia?" *New Mandela*. <https://www.newmandala.org/whats-behind-covid-19-vaccine-hesitancy-in-indonesia/>.
- Najmah, and S G Davies. 2020. *Working together: Exploring grass-roots initiatives to mitigate Covid-19 in Indonesia*. London School of Economics (LSE).
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/seac/2020/12/16/working-together-exploring-grass-roots-initiatives-to-mitigate-covid-19-in-indonesia/>.
- Najmah, I P Sari, T N Kumalasari, S G Davies, and S Andajani5. 2020. "Factors influencing HIV knowledge among women of childbearing age in South Sumatra, Indonesia." *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine* 20 (1): 150-159.
- Najmah, Kusnan, and S G Davies. 2021. "COVID-19 denial in Indonesia." *Inside Indonesia*.
<https://www.insideindonesia.org/covid-19-denial-in-indonesia>.
- Najmah, Kusnan, S Andajani, S G Davies, and T G Davies. 2021. "COVID-19 Denial in Indonesia." *Inside Indonesia*. <https://www.insideindonesia.org/covid-19-denial-in-indonesia>.
- Najmah, Kusnan, T G Davies, and S G Davies. 2023. "Disclosing One's HIV Status During Indonesia's COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges Faced by Mothers." Chap. 9 in *COVID-19: Surviving a Pandemic*, 190-215. Routledge.
- Najmah, Maulidinda, Zico, and S G Davies. 2022. HIV: Perception, Resilience and Prevention : "HIV Booklet in collaboration between Public Health Faculty Sriwijaya University, ." https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367299016_HIV_Perception_Resilience_and_Prevention.
- Najmah, S Andajani, and S G Davies. 2020. "From Drawings to Puppet Shows: Creating a Collective Space for HIV-Positive Women." *Advances in Health Sciences Research*. doi:DOI
<https://doi.org/10.2991/ahsr.k.200612.033>.

- Najmah, S Andajani, and S G Davies. 2020. "Perceptions of and barriers to HIV testing of women in Indonesia." *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters* 28 (2): 1-14.
- Najmah, S G Davies, and Yeni. 2020. "COVID and HIV in Indonesia: Predictive modelling, empowering women, and Covid-19 in South Sumatra, Indonesia." *ASEAN Journal of Community Engagement* 4 (1). doi:<https://doi.org/>.
- Najmah, S G Davies, Kusnan, and T G Davies. 2021. "'It's better to treat a COVID patient than a HIV patient': Using feminist participatory research to assess women's challenges to access HIV care in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic." *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease* 8: 1-14. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/204993612111064191>.
- Najmah, S Khodijah, N Alkaff, S F Muharomah, F Etrawati, A F Faisya, S G Davies, T G Davies, and S Andajani. 2021. "Believe it or not, it's Covid-19': Family Perceptions of Covid-19 in Palembang, Indonesia." *Intersections (Australia)* (45): 1-14. <https://research.monash.edu/en/publications/believe-it-or-not-its-covid-19-family-perceptions-of-covid-19-in->.
- Ningtyas, I. 2021. "Indonesia battles spread of vaccine misinformation Government, NGOs, and media platforms launch fact-checking channels to dispel fake information around COVID-19 vaccine." *Anadolu Agency*.
- Norton, A, J Mphahlele, Y Yazdanpanah, P Piot, and M T Bayona. 2020. "Strengthening the global effort on COVID-19 research." *The Lancet* 396 (10248). doi:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)31598-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31598-1).
- Pater, M, and J Veenhoff. 2021. *Collaborate or Die the Changemaker's Guide for Co-Creation*. Amsterdam: Fronteer.
- Pradhan, P, D R Subedi, D Khatiwada, K K Joshi, S Kafle, R P Chhetri, and D R Bhujju. 2021. "The COVID-19 pandemic not only poses challenges, but also opens opportunities for sustainable transformation." *Earth's Future* 9 (7).
- SAGE. n.d. Methods map. Retrieved in <https://methods.sagepub.com/methods-map/>
- Sucahya, P K. 2020. "'Barriers to covid-19 RT-PCR testing in Indonesia: a health policy perspective.'" *Journal of Indonesian Health Policy and Administration* 5 (2).
- The Economist. 2023. Tracking COVID-19 excess deaths across countries. Retrieved in <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/coronavirus-excess-deaths-tracker>
- Thoresen, S I, T Blix, T Wentzel-Larsen, and M S Birkeland. 2021. "Trusting others during a pandemic: Investigating potential changes in generalized trust and its relationship with pandemic-related experiences and worry." *Frontiers in Psychology* 12. doi:<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.698519>.
- Tilche, A, and R Astuti. 2020. "'Draft of Good Practice guidelines in collaborative research: 'data' ownership, authorship and power'." *EASA Newsletter* (75): 12-9. doi:https://easaonline.org/downloads/newsletters/easa_newsletter_75.pdf.
- Vyngintas, Aliukonis. Poškutė, Margarita. Gefenas, Eugenijus. 2020. "Perish or Publish Dilemma: Challenges to Responsible Authorship." *Medicina* 56 (3): 2020.

- Walters, C, L Ronnie, J Jansen, and S Kriger. 2021. "Academic guilt" The impact of the pandemic-enforced lockdown on women's academic work." *Women's Studies International Forum* 88. doi:doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2021>.
- Webb, J, and S Bedi. 2021. *The Distanced Researcher: How Visual Methods Can Support Our Work in the New Covid World*. Facet Publishing. <https://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/page/article-detail/the-distanced-researcher-how-visual-methods-can-support-our-work-in-the-new-covid-world/>.
- Wirawan, G B S, P N T Y Mahardani, M R K Cahyani, N L P S P Laksmi, and P P Januraga. 2021. "Conspiracy beliefs and trust as determinants of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in Bali, Indonesia: Cross-sectional study." *Personality and Individual Differences* 180. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2021.110995>.
- Worldmeter. 2023. COVID-19 in Indonesia. Retrieved in <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/indonesia/>
- Zaman, M G, H Afridi, H Ohly, H J Mcardle, and N M Lowe. 2020. "Equitable partnerships in global health research." *Nature Food* 1 (12): 760-761.

Appendix 1: Our publication and variation of methods during pandemic

Publications	Variation of methods/methodology
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19 denial in Indonesia, an article (Najmah and Davies 2020) 2. 'Believe it or not, it is COVID-19': Family perceptions of COVID-19 in Palembang, Indonesia. A journal article (Najmah and Davies 2021) 3. What is behind vaccine hesitancy in Indonesia?, an article (Davies and Najmah 2020) 4. From COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy to vaccine acceptance in South Sumatra, Indonesia, an article (Davies and Najmah 2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Internet search: governments statements in online news · Go-along interview of 30 participants (12 males and 18 females) · Online interviews of health workers & Photo elicitation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. 'It's better to treat a COVID patient than a HIV patient': using feminist participatory research to assess women's challenges to access HIV care in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic, a journal article (Najmah and Davies 2020) 6. Disclosing one's HIV status during Indonesia's COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges faced by mothers, a book chapter in COVID-19: Surviving a Pandemic (Najmah, Kusnan, Andajani, Davies and Davies 2021) 7. HIV: Perception, Resilience and Prevention, a booklet (Najmah et al 2023) 8. Endless stigma of HIV and COVID-19, an article (Najmah 2021; Najmah, Kusnan, Davies 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Online interview of 10 health workers · Online interviews and go-along interviews with 20 HIV-positive mothers and 20 women who were pregnant or had been pregnant during the COVID-19 pandemic · Virtual or face-to-face focus group discussion with mothers and HIV-positive mothers · Participatory visual methods by developing videos, poems, song lyrics, mind-maps, etc.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Predictive modelling, empowering women and COVID-19 in South Sumatra, a journal article (Najmah and Davies 2021) 10. Descriptive epidemiology of COVID-19 in Palembang, Indonesia, a journal article (Najmah, Andajani, Davies 2020) 11. Working together: Exploring grassroots initiatives to mitigate COVID-19 in Indonesia, an article (Najmah et al 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Secondary data analysis of COVID-19 from health office of Palembang · Collaborative research with lecturers, university students and health policy makers from health office of Palembang

<p>12. From Drawings to Puppet Shows: Creating a Collective Space for HIV-Positive Women, a proceeding article (Najmah, Andajani, Davies 2020)</p> <p>13. Perceptions of and barriers to HIV testing of women in Indonesia, a journal article (Najmah et al 2023)</p> <p>14. Im/moral Healthcare: HIV and Universal Health Coverage in Indonesia, a journal article (Davies and Najmah 2020)</p> <p>15. Factors influencing HIV knowledge among women of childbearing age in South Sumatra, Indonesia (Najmah et al 2022)</p> <p>16. HIV: Perception, Resilience and Prevention, a book (Najmah et al 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HIV-positive women, health workers, and NGO workers · Female police · Secondary data analysis of HIV · A literature review · Key population including transgender, gay men, female sex workers, and man having sex with men
---	---