

Research Methods in Times of Crisis – Policy Press

Chapter proposal submission deadline: 15 June 2020

Completed chapters due: 31 July 2020

Book submission: 31 Aug 2020

Publication: 30 Oct 2020

Editors: Dr Helen Kara, independent researcher, UK; Dr Su-ming Khoo, National University of Ireland

Policy Press are fast-track publishing a series of peer reviewed short books on topics related to the pandemic. This book will be around 50,000 words with chapters of around 3,000 words, including references. While prompted by and relevant to the pandemic, we are looking for a wider focus, taking the opportunity that the crisis offers to re-examine and critically reflect upon research practices and their foundations. Some researchers specialise in researching crisis situations such as earthquakes, epidemics, conflict or flooding. Others engage in researching non-crisis topics in crisis settings. And some find themselves beset by an unexpected crisis which may affect their research in unanticipated ways. We are aiming to create a book which will discuss generative examples of challenges and dilemmas in each of these categories of research practice, and offer practical guidance and support for research in the current pandemic and also beyond it. Readers will include doctoral researchers, practitioner-researchers, evaluation researchers, academic researchers and professional researchers.

This book will provide an overview of the kinds of methods researchers use in times of crisis; how the crisis may or may not have affected what researchers can do, the way they go about their research, and the way they think about the processes of doing research; and the associated ethical considerations. We will include a small number of chapters focusing on research methods during the current pandemic, but we also want to put these alongside chapters on research in other crisis situations. We are open to submissions from researchers in any discipline, using qualitative, quantitative, or multi-modal methods. We are particularly keen to receive submissions from women, researchers in the global South, and researchers from minority groups.

Please send a submission, of no more than 500 words, with an outline of the following:

1. Name
2. Location(s) of your research
3. Research topic
4. Methods used
5. Why you chose those methods
6. How you used those methods
7. Any difficulties you encountered, and how those were addressed
8. Ethical considerations

Submissions and enquiries to: helen@weresearchit.co.uk and suming.khoo@nuigalway.ie