

Invitation emails to participants

Big social and qualitative researchers

Subject: Research interview request

Dear <Name>

I hope this email finds you well.

I am a librarian at Montana State University and a doctoral candidate at Humboldt University in Berlin (HU Supervisor: Vivien Petras; External Supervisor: Michael Zimmer, Marquette University). I am conducting a research project that aims to understand how different research communities address data curation and data sharing. The results of the research will improve library and data repository practices.

I am interviewing researchers to collect data for the project. (See full summary of the project below this email.) I reviewed your <Year> article, <"Title">, and I believe that you will be able to provide valuable insights into big social research.

My request to you:

Would you be willing to join me for a 60-minute research interview?

If you're available and interested, I will be conducting interviews throughout the next couple of months (through October). You can select a time slot within the next several weeks that works for you using my bookings page <link>. The system will automatically schedule an appointment with Zoom information.

Thank you very much for considering!

Sincerely,
Sara

—

Sara Mannheimer (she/her)
Associate Professor, Data Librarian - Montana State University
Doctoral Candidate - Humboldt University of Berlin
<https://saramannheimer.com>

Full research summary

Big social data (such as social media and blogs) and archived qualitative data (such as interview transcripts, field notebooks, and diaries) are similar, but their respective communities of

practice are under-connected. Research with both types of data repurpose existing social data to advance discoveries in social science. However, despite these similarities, big social research has not yet been widely framed as a form of qualitative data reuse, and qualitative data reuse has only begun to be discussed through a big social data lens. Qualitative data reuse is a more established practice, and therefore has more developed data curation strategies to support data sharing. My research investigates how data curation practices from each of these communities can inform the other for mutual benefit. The research will use interviews of qualitative researchers, big social data researchers, and data curators to gain insights into different community approaches to research and data sharing.

Data curators

Subject: Research interview request

Dear <Name>,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am conducting a research project that aims to understand how different communities of practice use data curation to support ethical, legal, and epistemologically-sound big social research. I am conducting interviews to collect data for the project. (See full summary of the project below this email.)

My request to you:

Would you be willing to join me for a research interview? The interview will take 60 minutes. <Because of your job position/experience>, I believe you will have valuable knowledge and experience about curating qualitative and big social data.

Thank you very much for considering!

Sincerely,

Sara

—

Sara Mannheimer (she/her)
Associate Professor, Data Librarian
Montana State University
<https://saramannheimer.com>

Full research summary

Big social data (such as social media and blogs) and archived qualitative data (such as interview transcripts, field notebooks, and diaries) are similar, but their respective communities of practice are under-connected. Research with both types of data repurpose existing social data to advance discoveries in social science. However, despite these similarities, big social research has not yet been widely framed as a form of qualitative data reuse, and qualitative data reuse has only begun to be discussed through a big social data lens. Qualitative data reuse is a more established practice, and therefore has more developed data curation strategies to support data sharing. My research investigates how data curation practices from each of these communities can inform the other for mutual benefit. The research will use interviews of qualitative researchers, big social data researchers, and data curators to gain insights into different community approaches to research and data sharing.

Follow up emails to participants

Wonderful! Thank you for your generosity with your time during a hectic year.

To prepare for the interview, I'm asking respondents to identify a recent time when you:

<For data curators:

- curated qualitative data for sharing;
- curated big social data for sharing;
- advised or collaborated with big social researchers on data collection and/or analysis.>

<For big social researchers:

- collected big social data for research; or
- reused big social data that was shared by someone else; or
- prepared big social data for publication or sharing; or
- considered sharing your big social data, even if you ended up deciding against sharing.>

<For qualitative researchers:

- prepared your qualitative data for publication or sharing; or
- reused existing qualitative data yourself; or
- considered sharing your qualitative data, even if you ended up deciding against sharing.>

I have attached the full interview guide and IRB-approved consent form for your reference—feel free to review them ahead of the interview, but don't feel that you have to. We'll review and sign the consent form using DocuSign on the day of the interview.

Thanks again, and I look forward to talking with you,

Sara

—

Sara Mannheimer (she/her)
Associate Professor, Data Librarian
Montana State University
<https://saramannheimer.com>

Thank you email to participants

Subject: Thank you!

Dear <Name>,

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me. Your experiences and insights will be a key addition to my study, and I hope the results will support new knowledge in data curation for responsible qualitative data reuse and big social research.

I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and your time.

Sincerely,

Sara

—

Sara Mannheimer (she/her)
Associate Professor, Data Librarian
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