Infrastructural Mobilities: Decaying and Emergent Spaces of a Conflict Zone

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

Creator: Gorkem Aydemir Kundakci

Affiliation: KU Leuven (KUL)

Funder: Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)

Template: FWO DMP (Flemish Standard DMP)

Grant number / URL: 1235024N

ID: 206716

Start date: 01-08-2024

End date: 31-07-2027

Project abstract:

This project focuses on the transformative intersections of infrastructure and mobility in the Georgia- Abkhazia conflict zone. By focusing on everyday movements and infrastructural engagements of a displaced community (from the Gali region) across a militarized border, the project asks: How do people constitute, experience, and perceive the conflict spaces that they inhabit? The study proposes the concept of infrastructural mobilities, and aims to theorize the experiential and spatial dynamism of spaces of long-term conflict in ways that challenge state and territory centric analyses. In doing so, it works at the nexus of anthropological studies of contested spaces and sovereignties, borders and mobility, and infrastructure and materiality. The project expands the affordances of ethnographic methodologies by cultivating sensory techniques (interviews-in-motion, mapping-and-narrating), and pursues three objectives: 1) identify and examine the sociopolitical backgrounds of the infrastructures intersecting with everyday mobilities of the Gali population, 2) unpack how crosscutting infrastructures and mobilities shape each other and constitute places, 3) examine how infrastructural mobilities impact the Gali people's perceptions of the contested borderland. At a time of wars and refugee crises in Europe, the project seeks to capture the complexity of life in conflict zones, and question the normative definitions of territory and borders.

Last modified: 27-05-2024

1. Research Data Summary

List and describe all datasets or research materials that you plan to generate/collect or reuse during your research project. For each dataset or data type (observational, experimental etc.), provide a short name & description (sufficient for yourself to know what data it is about), indicate whether the data are newly generated/collected or reused, digital or physical, also indicate the type of the data (the kind of content), its technical format (file extension), and an estimate of the upper limit of the volume of the data.

				Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for digital data	Only for physical data
Dataset Name	Description	New or reused	Digital or Physical	Digital Data Type	Digital Data format	Digital data volume (MB/GB/TB)	Physical volume
		Please choose from the following options: • Generate new data • Reuse existing data	*Please choose from the following options:* • Digital • Physical	*Please choose from the following options:* • Observational • Experimental • Compiled/aggregated data • Simulation data • Software • Other • NA	*Please choose from the following options:* • .por, .xml, .tab, .csv,.pdf, .txt, .rtf, .dwg, .gml, … • NA	*Please choose from the following options:* • <100MB • <1GB • <100GB • <1TB • <5TB • <10TB • <50TB • >50TB • NA	

Archival sources	The materials to be reviewed consist of meeting summaries, letters, sketches, blueprints, and photographs. Both digital and physical archival items will be examined. A database will be established to organize all the archival materials accessed during the project. This database will be stored as a CSV file on OneDrive, with materials classified by archival collection, location, file number, year, title, author, and creator. Any pertinent archival documents will be scanned and saved in PDF format on OneDrive.	Generate New data	Digital	Compiled	PDF	<100GB
Literature and texts	This encompasses academic papers, non-peer-reviewed literature, and official policy documents. These resources will be accessed either physically or digitally, utilizing open access or online platforms such as the Limo system at KU Leuven. Online materials will be viewed in PDF format and saved on OneDrive, or managed through Zotero for open access academic papers.	Generate new data	Digital	Compiled	PDF	<100GB

Visual sources	This comprises spatial plans and layouts, sketches, prototypes, digital representations, and images. Visual content sourced from published materials will be archived on OneDrive, ensuring the preservation of intellectual property rights.	Generate new data	Digital	Observational	MP3	<1TB
Audio sources	These encompasses interviews and participant observation records. Interviews will be saved as .mp3 files and transcribed into Word format (.docx) files on OneDrive. Additionally, notes from participatory sessions will be recorded in Word format (.docx) and stored on OneDrive.	Generate new data	Digital	Observational	MP3	<1TB

If you reuse existing data, please specify the source, preferably by using a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI, Handle, URL etc.) per dataset or data type:

Publications:

"Generative Exhaustions: Thresholds of Uncertainty and Stinkbug Infestation in Georgia's Contested Borderland." 2024. History and Anthropology. 10.1080/02757206.2024.2319877

"Electric Zone." Anthropology News. 64(5). Special Issue: Energy. September/October 2023.

"Contingent Homes: Mobility and Long-Term Conflict in the Contested Periphery of Georgia." 2021. Journal of Refugee Studies, 34(1), 23-45.

"Uncertainty and Viral Emergencies in the Margins of Georgia." Anthropology News, March 24, 2021.

 "Constructing Lives on the Move: Displacement and Return in the de facto Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland." 2017. Maintaining Refuge: Anthropological Reflections in Uncertain Times, David Haines, Jayne Howell, Fethi Keles (Ed.), Committee on Refugees and Immigrants, American Anthropological Association, 71-81.

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g. experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? Describe these issues in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- Yes, human subject data

- Interview sessions and video recordings undergo transcription and anonymization processes, employing pseudonyms generated by OpenPseudonymiser. For video recordings involving mapping-and-narrating activities, facial features will be excluded. Field notes will be

consistently pseudonymized to safeguard participant identities.

- Throughout the entirety of data preservation, analysis, and publication phases, participants' identities will be protected via pseudonymization techniques. Confidentiality measures will include encoding data and securely storing coding keys separately from the primary data sources.

Will you process personal data? If so, briefly describe the kind of personal data you will use in the comment section. Please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate.

- Yes

All interview data (audio and visual sources) will be collected only following informed consent by all participants. Potential participants will be informed about the goal of the research and will be provided with an information sheet regarding the project. Along with a summary of the project and the types of information that I seek, the sheet will explain who the researcher is, for whom s/he is working, who is responsible for the research project, and how to contact the responsible person. Participants will also be informed that their participation is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time. This procedure will be approved by the KU Leuven Social and Societal Ethics Committee (SMEC) prior to fieldwork.

Does your work have potential for commercial valorization (e.g. tech transfer, for example spin-offs, commercial exploitation, …)? If so, please comment per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- No

Do existing 3rd party agreements restrict exploitation or dissemination of the data you (re)use (e.g. Material/Data transfer agreements/ research collaboration agreements)? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and what restrictions are in place.

- No

Are there any other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, to be managed related to the data you (re)use? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and which restrictions will be asserted.

- No

2. **Documentation and Metadata**

Clearly describe what approach will be followed to capture the accompanying information necessary to keep data understandable and usable, for yourself and others, now and in the future (e.g., in terms of documentation levels and types required, procedures used, Electronic Lab Notebooks, README.txt files, Codebook.tsv etc. where this information is recorded).

The One Drive will host a well-structured folder system to streamline access and reference to both existing and newly developed materials. All files will be named in a clear and consistent manner, beginning with the date (in the format year/month/day, e.g., 230331_) followed by a brief description and, if applicable, the creator's initials. Additionally, README files will categorize data into archival, interview, and image sections, each further organized by identifiers such as title, year, location, author/creator, file type, and keywords.

Will a metadata standard be used to make it easier to find and reuse the data? If so, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata standard will be used. If not, please specify (where appropriate per dataset or data type) which metadata will be created to make the data easier to find and reuse.

- No

As my research will start in August 2024, I am still looking into the options of different metadata standards.

3. Data storage & back-up during the research project

Where will the data be stored?

Responsible Person: Dr. Noel Salazar
During data collection, data will be backed up on password protected personal laptop and secured with FileVault, with copies uploaded to OneDrive and J: server at KU Leuven. During analysis and write-up, data will be retained in personal laptop, OneDrive, J: server. At project's conclusion, data deleted from personal laptop but retained on OneDrive and J: server.
All data will be stored in password-protected computers at KU Leuven and retained for 10 years after the research. Complying with KU Leuven's FAIR data requirement, data will be stored with metadata describing it in ways that make it findable for further research.

How will the data be backed up?

Standard back-up provided by KU Leuven ICTS for my storage solution

Is there currently sufficient storage & backup capacity during the project? If yes, specify concisely.
If no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available, then explain how this will be taken care of.

- Yes

KU Leuven provides sufficient storage and backup capacity during the project.

How will you ensure that the data are securely stored and not accessed or modified by unauthorized persons?

Documents on OneDrive will exclusively be accessible to the investigator. If there's a need to share documents outside of the project, such as within the research group, it will be done via restricted access (shared through email) with view-only editing rights.

What are the expected costs for data storage and backup during the research project? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data storage and backup.

4. Data preservation after the end of the research project

Which data will be retained for at least five years (or longer, in agreement with other retention policies that are applicable) after the end of the project? In case some data cannot be preserved, clearly state the reasons for this (e.g. legal or contractual restrictions, storage/budget issues, institutional policies...).

All data will be preserved for 10 years according to KU Leuven RDM policy

Where will these data be archived (stored and curated for the long-term)?

Data will be securely stored for up to 10 years following the conclusion of a project on servers located in Leuven, specifically on the K-disk. Access to this data is granted to research group members only with the supervisor's authorization.

What are the expected costs for data preservation during the expected retention period? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data storage and backup.

5. Data sharing and reuse

Will the data (or part of the data) be made available for reuse after/during the project? In the comment section please explain per dataset or data type which data will be made available.

- Yes, in a restricted access repository (after approval, institutional access only, …)

Archival data and literature & texts will be made available.

If access is restricted, please specify who will be able to access the data and under what conditions.

The collected data will be accessible to the project investigator and project sponsor, Dr. Noel Salazar.

Are there any factors that restrict or prevent the sharing of (some of) the data (e.g. as defined in an agreement with a 3rd party, legal restrictions)? Please explain in the comment section per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- Yes, Privacy aspects
- Yes, Intellectual Property Rights

- Privacy aspects: personal data of the research participants (interviewees and participants in interactive moments) will be collected: name, email address, phone number, age, gender
- Intellectual property rights of existing as well as newly generated images and maps.

Where will the data be made available? If already known, please provide a repository per dataset or data type.

KU Leuven RDR (Research Data Repository) Data on all our publications resulting from this research will be stored in the KU Leuven repository LIRIAS.

When will the data be made available?

Upon publication of research results.

Which data usage licenses are you going to provide? If none, please explain why.

Most probably we will use the Data Transfer Agreement. We will further look into the specific data usage licences when the project starts in August 2024.

Do you intend to add a PID/DOI/accession number to your dataset(s)? If already available, you have the option to provide it in the comment section.

- Yes

Yes, a DOI number will be added upon deposit in a data repository

What are the expected costs for data sharing? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data sharing.

6. Responsibilities

Who will manage data documentation and metadata during the research project?

The data documentation and metadata will be managed by Gorkem Aydemir Kundakci

Who will manage data storage and backup during the research project?

The data storage and backup will be managed by Gorkem Aydemir Kundakci

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

The responsible person will be Dr. Noel Salazar, the supervisor of the project

Who will update and implement this DMP?

The data management plan will be updated and implemented by Gorkem Aydemir Kundakci.