
Copy of Copy of Colonial Grave-Robbing Postcolonial aftermaths and decolonial challenges of scientific racism in the Belgian Congo

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

Creator: Lies Busselen

Affiliation: KU Leuven (KUL)

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Project abstract:

This research aims at a critical ethnography of the biopolitical historical context and the present-day impact of colonial graverobbing activities that took place in the late 1940s in Congo's Kwango and Kwilu provinces. In that period, the Belgian territorial administrator Ferdinand Van de Ginste, inspired by 'scientific' notions and ideas about 'race' from the field of physical anthropology, ordered the excavation of many graves in Feshi and its surrounding villages. This resulted in 228 skulls being sent for further research to the (Belgian) Congo Museum of Tervuren in 1947. This research project proposes to investigate local memories and testimonies of this traumatic event, which has taken on a renewed significance in the Belgian context of decolonization politics. Instead of facilitating a unilateral political pathway of repatriation for these human remains, this research project wants to break away from a predominantly European decolonization debate by investigating the contemporary (affective, social, cultural and political) relevance of this historical event, both on the community and the national level. Based on new exploratory research data, the proposed project addresses the continuing impact and relevance of effaced colonial histories as well as the contemporary disparities they continue to engender. By foregrounding the rarely heard voices of affected parties in source communities, the project will make a significant contribution to the possible design of a broader and more inclusive and horizontal politics of collaboration, including scientific and academic collaboration, to address the thorny ethical and political issues raised in contemporary debates on decolonisation and repatriation in a more equitable way.

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DPIA

DPIA

Have you performed a DPIA for the personal data processing activities for this project?

- Not applicable

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GDPR

GDPR

Have you registered personal data processing activities for this project?

- Not applicable

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Application DMP

Questionnaire

Describe the datatypes (surveys, sequences, manuscripts, objects ...) the research will collect and/or generate and /or (re)use. (use up to 700 characters)

We will re-use data and generate new data.

We will re-use data based on literature study and archival research.

- **Published literature** including: academic publications (journal articles, book publications, reviews and other peer reviewed scholarly publications).
- **Grey literature** including: press articles, press releases, research reports, preprint articles, blog posts, theses, dissertations, compilation proceedings, newsletters, conference literature, law projects and policy documents.
- **Visual sources** including historical geographical maps, existing photographs with copyright.
- **Archival sources** including personal files, acquisition data, correspondence, guestbooks, (handwritten) museum inventories, drawings, information sheets, notes, photos and other images.

We will generate new data based on informal and formal interviews, institutional observations, participatory observation and focus groups:

- **Oral sources** including transcriptions of formal and informal interviews, notes of participatory observation and focus groups.
- **Personal data** including names, gender and age prior to consent.
- **Geospatial data** including elements or objects in a geographic place.
- **Visual materials** including landscape and portret photographs and images, posters and videos prior to consent of filmed participants.

Specify in which way the following provisions are in place in order to preserve the data during and at least 5 years after the end of the research? Motivate your answer. (use up to 700 characters)

Storage capacity/repository

- during the research: All the data will be stored on the internal KU Leuven OneDrive network. Literature will be stored via the open source facilitating tool Zotero. Archival data/images will be stored via the Open source Trophy data software.
- After the research: data will be transferred to the archive network of the KULeuven (L-Drive).

In both cases, only me and my supervisors will have access to the non-coded personal data.

What's the reason why you wish to deviate from the principle of preservation of data and of the minimum preservation term of 5 years? (max. 700 characters)

In case concerned interlocutors have not given consent we won't reuse these data within the project and therefore we won't preserve these data as well.

Are there issues concerning research data indicated in the ethics questionnaire of this application form? Which specific security measures do those data require? (use up to 700 characters)

For the reuse of video material, interview transcriptions and images, permission will be granted from the author/creator and/or relevant institution via the consent form.

Concerning all personal or sensitive data only me and my supervisors will have access to the rough data, given that the use, interpretation or citation of these data sources will be consented by the concerned interlocutors via the consent form.

Which other issues related to the data management are relevant to mention? (use up to 700 characters)

Through an archival structure located on the One Drive, existing data and developed material will be organised in order to simplify retrieving and consulting the overall documentation. Produced material will adopt meaningful filenames starting with the date (day/month/year, e.g. 02042024), description of its content and, when applicable, ending with the initials of the creator. Re-used data will be described according to category (archival, interviews, maps, photos, images) and structured according to several identifiers: title, year, location, author/creator, file type and if necessary key words.

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FWO DMP (Flemish Standard DMP)

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
Archival data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> colonial governance documents in the territorial administration archive of Masi-Manimba guestbook-data in Feshi, Masi-Manimba and Kikwit 	Generate new data	Physical				
Archival data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> personnel files colonial territorial and missionary notes personnel correspondence institutional correspondence acquisition files object files inventories (handwritten) colonial governance data colonial policy reports colonial territorial reports (former Kwango district) colonial maps colonial judicial documents missionary reports (Jesuit company) Company reports (Huileries du Kwango) 	Re-use data	Digital	NA	PDF and JPEG	<1GB	
Fieldwork data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey data based on informal and formal conversations (50 interlocutors) survey data based on focus group conversations (objective: 5) field notes based on participatory observation 	Generate new data	Digital	NA	PDF, JPEG and/or MP4	<1GB	
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> peer reviewed articles book publications grey literature (theses; dissertations; blog posts; governance reports; press articles). 	Re-use data	Digital	NA	PDF	<1GB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> books brochures museum publications 	Re-use data	Physical				
Recorded interview data	Within the BELSPO-project HOME (2019-2022) recordings where made by the PhD researcher.	Re-use data	Digital	NA	MP4	<1GB	

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:

We will retrieve data and datasets in different repositories:

- The State Archives of Belgium : <https://search.arch.be/en/zoeken-naar-archieven>
- AfricaMuseum Archives : <https://archives.africamuseum.be/>
- University Archive Ghent University : <https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/archive>

- KADOC Archives - KULeuven : <https://abs.lias.be/Query/archivplansuche.aspx?ID=330900>
- Archives ULB: <https://catalogue.archives.ulb.be/>

We will analyse existing literature throughout different databases:

- AfricArXiv: <https://africarxiv.pubpub.org/>
- Anthropological Index Online: <https://aio.therai.org.uk>
- Cairninfo: https://www-cairn-info.kuleuven.e-bronnen.be/Accueil_Revues.php
- International African Bibliography Online: <https://doi.org/10.1515/iabo>
- African research Online: 978-90-04-34083
- African Journals Online : <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajol>
- African Studies Abstracts Online: <https://scholarlypublications.universiteitleiden.nl/handle/1887/374>
- Historical Papers Research Archive: <https://www.wits.ac.za/historicalpapers/>
- Limo Lirias KULeuven : <https://kuleuven.limo.libis.be>
- Worldcat : <https://search.worldcat.org/fr>
- Google Scholar : <https://scholar.google.com/>
- Scopus : <https://www.scopus.com/home.uri>
- Sage Research Method: <https://methods.sagepub.com>
- Jstor : <https://www.jstor.org/>
- Proquest : <https://www.proquest.com/>
- Project Muse : <https://muse.jhu.edu/>
- Oxford Handbooks online : <https://academic.oup.com/oxford-handbooks-online>
- Historical abstracts : <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/historical-abstracts>
- Art full text : <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/art-full-text>

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

Consent of all interlocutors for individual and group conversations (informally or formally) will be a prerequisite for any use of these data. Prior to giving consent, interlocutors shall be informed thereof and as easy it is to give consent it will be to withdraw from this. The doctoral researcher will only process personal data with the consent of the individuals concerned.

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

Digitally born and primary derived personal survey data:

- Personal data used for organizing the research (i.e. name, phone number, e-mail address). This data will not be included in the analysis and will be stored separately from research data.
- Personal data for research purposes: consent will be prior to the use of these data in the research. The possibility to pseudonymize these data will be part of the consent agreement.

Ethical approval by SMEC has been requested.

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.

- Yes

For the re-use of recorded interviews a data transfer agreement will be set up with the Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA). Since Maarten Couttenier is co-promotor (RMCA) this will be automatically embedded in the institutional collaboration with the RMCA.

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.

- Yes

The recorded interviews were produced by the principal investigator in the framework of the HOME-project (2019-2022) and are considered intellectual property of the RMCA. In case of re-use a data transfer agreement will be applied.

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).

- All literature and published archival data will be stored on the open source facilitating tool Zotero.
- All research images and newly scanned archival documents will be stored in the open source software Trophy.
- During the project a README file will disclose the different datasets and methodologies used to collect the data for each article or chapter.

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.

- Yes

The doctoral researcher will use the Standard Repository for Metadata of the KULeuven.

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

Where will the data be stored?

During the research data will be stored on the internal Onedrive of the KULeuven.

How will the data be backed up?

During and after the research project the data will be backed up on a personal external drive. If 1TB is reached the data will be backed up on the J-drive of the KULeuven.

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

The estimated volume goes not above 1TB.

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

The personal KU Leuven Onedrive can only be accessed by an institutional login.

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

NA

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 datasets previously described.

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

These will be archived on the KU Leuven Onedrive and a personal external drive.

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

NA

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.

- No (closed access)

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

The doctoral researcher will have access to these data. During the project data will be shared with the supervisors.

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, Intellectual Property Rights

For the re-use of recorded interviews we will sign an agreement with the RMCA.

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

NA

When will the data be made available?

NA

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

NA

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.

- No

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

NA

6. Responsibilities

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

Lies Busselen

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

Lies Busselen

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

Lies Busselen

Who will update and implement this DMP?

Lies Busselen