The Landscapes of Colonial Healthcare in Congo. An Environmental History of Medicine and Disease (1900-1960)

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

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Project abstract:
In this project I will study the environmental history of colonial healthcare, medicine and disease in colonial Congo (1900-1960). The development of the Congolese healthcare system has been thoroughly influenced by European ideas on the connections between the environment and disease. Health and disease and the organization of health care are always affected by material and ecological circumstances. The natural environment provides both obstacles and opportunities for building healthcare infrastructure. Human experiences with climate and landscape features have influenced ideas about disease pathogens, their distribution and their eradication. In turn, the material infrastructure of health care influences the surrounding landscape and environment. Forests are sometimes cleared to build hospitals or marshlands are drained to prevent diseases from spreading. This project is centred around the influence of the reciprocal relationship between health and the environment on the development of the Congolese healthcare system.

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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.

Dataset name / ID	Description	New or reuse	Digital or Physical data	Data Type	File format	Data volume	Physical volume
Archival material	Digital reproductions (photographs) of physical archival material (e.g. correspondence, reports, notes, manuscripts, journal articles) and stored on my personal KU Leuven OneDrive account. Some photographs are converted to PDFs for OCR purposes. Possibly use of software like ABBYY or Trophy for analytical purposes.	E	D	I & SO	.JPG .PDF	NA	NA
Photographs of published books, journal articles and reports	Digital reproductions (photographs) of physical published books, journal articles and reports used as primary sources. The physical items were borrowed from libraries and temporarily stored in my KU Leuven office. Photographs stored on my personal KU Leuven OneDrive account. Some photographs are converted to PDFs for OCR purposes. Possibly use of software like ABBYY or Trophy for analytical purposes.	E	D & P	I	.JPG .PDF Physical/analogue	NA	NA
Bibliographical data primary and secondary sources	Maintaining an overview of literature. Manually entered in Zotero	E	D	SO	.RDF	NA	NA
Digitalized biographies/ necrologies	Existing data derived mostly from KAOWARSOM database. Possibly use of software like ABBYY or Trophy for analytical purposes.	E	D	I / T	.PDF	NA	NA

Digitalized records and reports	Existing data derived from various online databases. Possibly use of software like ABBYY or Trophy for analytical purposes.	E	D	I / T	.JPG .PDF	NA	NA
Audio recordings and transcriptions of interviews	Collected through the use of a recording device. Audio stored on my personal KU Leuven One Drive account. Transcription probably processed in Word.	N	D	S & T	.WAV .DOCX	NA	NA
Research Notes	Research notes will processed in Word, Scapple, Scrivener and on physical paper.	N	D & P	SO & T	.DOCX Physical/analogue	NA	NA
Timelines and network visualisations	Visualize key moments in time and social relational networks. Possibly use Nodegoat or Gephy.	N	D	SO & T	.CSV .XLSX	NA	NA

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:

I am still in the process of deciding which archival material to use so unfortunately I cannot yet provide a conclusive list. The following list contains the depositories and archives that I know I will be using at this moment.

Biografisch Woordenboek van de Belgen Overzee (KAOWARSOM)
http://www.kaowarsom.be/nl/biografisch_woordenboek_belgen_overzee

Africa Museum
https://archives.africamuseum.be/

Algemeen Rijksarchief (Depot Joseph Cuvelier)
https://search.arch.be/nl/zoeken-naar-archieven

Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde
This archive does not provide an online inventory of their archival material.

WHO Library
https://www.who.int/library

League of Nations Archives
https://archives.ungeneva.org/lontad

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g. experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? If so, refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate and provide the relevant ethical approval number.

- Yes, human subject data (Provide SMEC or EC approval number below)

There is a possibility that I will be conducting interviews with Congolese participants. I am in the process of applying for ethical approval with the KU Leuven ethical committee (PRET application through KU Leuven, number G-2023-6818).
Before executing the interviews I will provide participants with informed consent forms. All personal information will be anonymized.
Other types of personal information gathered through archival research, such as patient's medical files, will also be anonymized.

Will you process personal data? If so, please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate and provide the KU Leuven or UZ Leuven privacy register number (G or S number).

- Yes (Provide PRET G-number or EC S-number below)

There is a possibility that I will be conducting interviews with Congolese participants. I am in the process of applying for ethical approval with the KU Leuven ethical committee (PRET application through KU Leuven, number G-2023-6818).
Before executing the interviews I will provide participants with informed consent forms. All personal information will be anonymized.
Other types of personal information gathered through archival research, such as patient's medical files, will also be anonymized.

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 or 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

Most of my research will be available in open access. In regard to personal, medical data and interviews, only researchers who have an ethical clearance issued by an internationally recognized research institute for their research can disseminate or reuse this data of my research. Before this information can be reused, permission has to be regained from the participants, and if this is not longer possible, by their closest family.

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

Only researchers who have an ethical clearance issued by an internationally recognized research institute for their research with regard to personal, medical data and interviews can disseminate or reuse this data of my research. Before this information can be reused, permission has to be regained from the participants, and if this is not longer possible, by their closest family.

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).

I will make use of the OneDrive cloud service provided by the Faculty, which is safe and automatically backed up. I will standardly receive 2 TB in OneDrive storage, and I can request up to 5TB storage (free of charge) if necessary. All collected data will be stored and described on RDR (KU Leuven research data depository) according to FAIR principles to make sure my research is transparent and transferable. I will provide a README.text file to explain the structure of the stored data and to provide an explanation of the methodology used to collect this material. I will provide an extensive bibliography with all primary and secondary data used in my research, including specific references to archival inventories and maps.

Will a metadata standard be used to make it easier to find and reuse the data?
If so, please specify which metadata standard will be used.

If not, please specify which metadata will be created to make the data easier to find and reuse.

- Yes

I will use DataCite as a metadata standard through the KU Leuven Research Data Repository.

Data Storage & Back-up during the Research Project

Where will the data be stored?

- OneDrive (KU Leuven)

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 no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available, explain how this will be taken care of.

- Yes

Currently there is sufficient storage and backup capacity during my project, but if not, I will request an update of my OneDrive storage with KU Leuven.

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

I received a laptop through the Faculty's ICT service. This laptop has Bitlocker pre-installed, which means sensitive data are protected by the Bitlocker system. My KU Leuven OneDrive account is also protected through the Faculty's ICT service.

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

Data storage and back-up facilities of the Faculty of Arts at the KU Leuven are free of charge. Researchers can story 50 GB per year for free at RDR. I do not expect that the material I need to share in this repository will exceed this limit.

Data Preservation after the end of the Research Project

Which data will be retained for 10 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)?

- KU Leuven RDR

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

Data storage and back-up facilities of the Faculty of Arts at the KU Leuven are free of charge. Researchers can story 50 GB per year for free at RDR. I do not expect that the material I need to share in this repository will exceed this limit.

Data Sharing and Reuse

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

- Yes, as restricted data (upon approval, or institutional access only)

Parts of the data that contain personal, medical information or interviews will be classified as restricted data. This data can only be consulted upon approval of the researcher and/or the interview participants (or if this is not longer possible of their close family). All other data will at least be made open access after the project has finished, and sooner if possible.

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

In regard to personal, medical data and interviews, only researchers who have an ethical clearance issued by an internationally recognized research institute for their research can disseminate or reuse this data of my research. Before this information can be reused, permission has to be regained from the participants, and if this is not longer possible, by their closest family.

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 per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- Yes, privacy aspects
- Yes, ethical aspects

Personal and medical information will be collected (partly through interviews), parts of which could restrict the sharing of this information based on privacy or ethical grounds.

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)

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.

- CC-BY 4.0 (data)
- Data Transfer Agreement (restricted data)

CCBY will be used for all data that can be legally shared with other researchers. All data that cannot be shared in CCBY for privacy reasons (GDPR), ethical reasons or because of an internal prohibition of data sharing in a specific archive will be omitted or, if possible, a Data Transfer Agreement will be drafted.

Do you intend to add a persistent identifier (PID) to your dataset(s), e.g. a DOI or accession number? If already available, please provide it here.

- Yes, a PID will be added upon deposit in a data repository

All data shared in the RDR repository will receive a DOI.

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

The use of RDR is free of charge.

Responsibilities

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

I will be responsible for managing the data documentation and metadata myself. If any difficulties or issues arise I will contact the RDM helpdesk of the KU Leuven and consult my supervisors.

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

I will manage data storage myself and make sure my research data is backed up. My work is also automatically backed up through my use of One Drive.

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

I will manage data preservation and sharing myself.

Who will update and implement this DMP?

I will update and implement this DMP myself.