

Teaching Resources: Decolonizing Film Festival Research in a Post-Pandemic World. Prof Sheila Petty & Dr Estrella Sendra, 2022-2024.

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<https://research.uregina.ca/dffr/decolonial-tests/>

## Student Worksheet & Reflective Checklist

# Decolonial Test (Part 1)

### *Purpose* □

This worksheet is designed to support you in developing a reflexive, ethical, and decolonial approach to your research from the outset. It will help you think critically about your positionality, methods, relationships, and responsibilities.

- Use this as a starting point.
- Discuss your responses with a peer or supervisor if possible.
- Return to it during or after fieldwork

## Section 1: Positionality & Research Motivation

### 1. Your connection to the research

- What is your personal and/or professional connection to this festival?
- What motivates your interest in this research?

Notes:

### 2. Your academic background

- What is your background in film and festival studies (or related fields)?
- How does this project fit within your academic trajectory?

Notes:

## Section 2: Access, Relationships & Communication

### 1. Approaching participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are your intended participants (e.g. organisers, artists, audiences)?</li> <li>• How will you approach and invite them to take part?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Communication &amp; continued engagement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will you communicate with participants during fieldwork?</li> <li>• How will you stay in touch after the research is completed?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 3: Knowledge & Research Frameworks

<b>1. Existing research</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What academic or contextual literature is relevant to your project?</li> <li>• How does it inform your approach?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Engaging with previous researchers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you considered contacting authors who have worked on this festival?</li> <li>• Why/why not? What could this add to your project?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>3. Research approaches</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What theoretical, methodological, and epistemological approaches will guide your research?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 4: Language, Fieldwork & Relationships

<b>1. Multilingualism and context</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What languages are involved in your research (data collection and outputs)?</li> <li>• What role does language play in this festival context?</li> </ul>
Notes:

## 2. Fieldwork approach

- How will you conduct your fieldwork?
- What resources will you rely on?
- What kind of relationship do you want to build with participants?

Notes:

## Section 5: Ethics, Reciprocity & Knowledge Sharing

### 1. Dissemination and accessibility

- How will you share your research findings?
- How will you make them accessible to both academic audiences and participants

Notes:

### 2. Reciprocity

- How will you ensure that your research benefits participants as well as yourself?
- What forms of reciprocity could you build into your project?

Notes:

## Final Reflection Checklist

Before moving forward, check:

- I have reflected on my positionality and motivations
- I have a plan for approaching and engaging participants ethically.
- I have considered language and accessibility
- I have identified relevant literature and research frameworks
- I have thought about reciprocity and mutual benefit
- I have planned how to share my findings beyond academia

## Optional Peer Exercise

- Ask a peer to go through this worksheet with you
- Discuss your responses together
- Identify any assumptions, gaps, or areas for further thought

## Next Step

Use this worksheet to draft your **fieldwork plan**, including:

- |   |
|---|
| • Key contacts                          |
| • Research spaces                       |
| • Resources needed                      |
| • Ethical and relational considerations |

*We are interested in hearing whether this methodology has been beneficial for your research. Your feedback on the method and the decolonial tests is greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact us by sending an email to [estrella.sendra@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:estrella.sendra@kcl.ac.uk) and [Sheila.Petty@uregina.ca](mailto:Sheila.Petty@uregina.ca). Thank you.*