

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 2)

### *Purpose* □

This worksheet is designed to support you in conducting interviews with festival organisers and participants. It encourages attentive listening, reflexivity, and a decolonial approach to research.

- Use this as a flexible guide, not a strict script
- Adapt questions to your context and relationship with participants
- Prioritise care, respect, and ethical engagement throughout

## Section 1: Festival Background & Mission

### 1. Origins of the festival

- How did the festival begin?
- What contexts (social, cultural, political) shaped its creation?

Notes:

### 2. Festival mission

- What is the festival's mission or vision?
- How is this expressed in its activities and programming?

Notes:

## Section 2: Organisation, Labour & Funding

<b>1. Festival structure and labour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the festival organised?</li> <li>• What kinds of labour (visible and invisible) sustain it?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Funding and partnerships</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the festival funded and supported?</li> <li>• How do these partnerships influence the festival's structure or programme?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>3. Collaborations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the festival collaborate with other festivals or organisations?</li> <li>• What kinds of activities emerge from these collaborations?</li> <li>• How are these collaborations perceived or evaluated?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 3: Location, Audiences & Context

<b>1. Location and audiences</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is the festival held in this location (or locations)?</li> <li>• How does the festival engage and build its audiences?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Festival landscape</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this festival position itself within the local or global festival scene?</li> <li>• What distinguishes its themes or aesthetic approaches?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 4: Curating & Filmmaker support

<b>1. Film curation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are films selected and curated?</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What values or criteria guide this process?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Screening conditions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What conditions are offered to filmmakers?</li> <li>• What expectations are placed on them?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Support for filmmakers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the festival support filmmakers (e.g. financially, professionally, logistically)?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 5: Engagement, Dialogue & Language

<b>1. Debates and parallel activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there discussions, workshops, or other activities alongside screenings?</li> <li>• How are audiences encouraged to participate?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>2. Audience experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways does the festival offer an alternative experience to everyday film viewing?</li> </ul>
Notes:
<b>3. Language and accessibility</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What language(s) are used at the festival?</li> <li>• How are subtitles, translation, or interpretation handled?</li> </ul>
Notes:

### Section 6: Reflection on Decolonial Practice

## 1. Reflecting on decolonial practices

- Have these questions prompted new reflections on decolonisation in your festival?
- How do you understand this in relation to your work?

Notes:

### Researcher Reflection (after the interview)

After completing your interview, reflect on the following:

- How did I build rapport and trust with the participant?
- Did I create space for open and respectful dialogue?
- What assumptions did I bring into the interview?
- What did I learn about the festival's practices and context?
- How does this inform my understanding of decolonial research?

### Tips for us

Adapt wording depending on the participant (formal/informal tone)

You do not need to ask every question. Focus on what is most relevant

Let the conversation flow; use follow-up questions where appropriate

### Next Step

Use your notes to:

- Analyse emerging themes
- Reflect on your positionality and interpretation
- Connect interview insights to your research questions

*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.*