



Some implication of FAIR principles on tales in ethnological and anthropological qualitative research

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Project: Solidarity Economy in Croatia: Anthropological Perspective (SOLIDARan)
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About the SOLIDARan project

- The solidarity economy comprises an array of very diverse initiatives and movements focused on **creating and practicing alternative ways of living, producing and consuming (Bauhard 2014)** and thus also on transforming the dominant economic system.
- This includes practices such as community-supported agriculture, workers' cooperatives, urban gardening, eco villages, ethical financing, alternative currencies, LETS, fair-trade initiatives and others (**including open source initiatives!**).



Solidary ecological farmers' market in Pula.
Photo by courtesy of Mr. Nenad Kuftić



Main research question and objectives

- To understand the **different and often mutually exclusive conceptualizations of solidarity in the contemporary moment**, new forms of communities of practice and new ways of imagining communities, as well as perceptions of the solidarity economy as a way of creating a utopia of reconstruction.
- To understanding the **processual nature and the multiple intra- and intergroup dynamics** among the actors of the solidarity economy, as well as to the theoretical consideration of the important anthropological concepts of **solidarity, reciprocity and community**.
- The applied objective of the project consists in developing **a model (guidelines) for the implementation of elements of the solidarity economy into public policy**.
- Strong advocacy aspect (engaged anthropology) (Beck and Maida 2013).



Methodology in SOLIDARan project

Qualitative

- Semi-structured in-depth interviews
- Ethnographic observation
- Content analysis (of both interview transcripts and archival data)
- Participant observation (where possible)

Quantitative

- Online survey among the students about the perception of solidarity economy
- **USEFUL GUIDANCE!**
- DARIAH ELDAH Consent Form Wizard (CFW)!
- <https://consent.dariah.eu/node/2>



Ethical considerations, or how SOLIDARan project manages the data

Ethical Board of the Institute for Anthropological Research approved the

- Proposed research data management system
- Informed consent created for the SOLIDARan project

Vaši osobni podaci prikupljeni ovim istraživačkim razgovorom bit će korišteni isključivo u znanstvene svrhe. Podaci iz Vašeg intervjua mogu biti korišteni (u obliku citata ili izdvojenih izjava) prilikom diseminacije rezultata istraživanja od strane svih suradnika na projektu: u znanstvenim radovima, knjigama ili prilikom konferencijskih izlaganja na prezentacijama ili posterima. Ukoliko želite ostati anonimni, nigdje se neće navoditi Vaše ime i prezime i anonimnost Vam je zajamčena. U tom slučaju možete izabrati pseudonim iz baze (kataloga) osobnih hrvatskih imena koji će Vam biti ponuđen. Audio snimka razgovora i/ili transkript intervjua mogu Vam, ukoliko to želite, biti dostavljeni e-mailom ili na kućnu adresu.

Audio snimak istraživačkog razgovora bit će pohranjen u računalu glavne istraživačice i u Bazi podataka audio materijala Instituta za antropologiju. Transkripti razgovora (šifrirani podaci o sugovorniku, šifarnik će se nalaziti kod voditeljice istraživanja) bit će isprintani te pohranjeni u Bazi podataka kvalitativnih istraživanja Instituta za antropologiju pod brojem projekta. Također, transkripti istraživačkog razgovora bit će dostupni za korištenje samo suradnicima u ovom istraživanju, s ciljem provođenja znanstvenih analiza.

Your personal data collected through this research interview will be used exclusively for scientific purposes. The data from your interview can be used (in the form of quotes or isolated statements) during the dissemination of research results by all collaborators on the project: in scientific papers, books or during conference presentations on presentations or posters. If you want to remain anonymous, your name and surname will not be mentioned anywhere, and your anonymity is guaranteed. In that case, you can choose a pseudonym from the database (catalogue) of personal Croatian names that will be offered to you. The audio recording of the conversation and/or the transcript of the interview can, if you wish, be delivered to you by e-mail or to your home address.

The audio recording of the research conversation will be stored in the main researcher's computer and in the Audio Materials Database of the Institute of Anthropology. Transcripts of the conversation (coded information about the interlocutor, the code book will be with the research manager) will be printed and stored in the Database of Qualitative Research of the Institute of Anthropology under the project number. Also, the transcripts of the research interview will be available for use only by collaborators in this research, with the aim of conducting scientific analyses.



Informed consent - SOLIDARan



Obaviješteni pristanak - suglasnosti

Želim da moji podaci prilikom gore navedenog oblika korištenja ostanu anonimni (molimo Vas da zaokružite željeni odgovor)

DA

NE

Ukoliko je odgovor DA, želim da se uz izjave i podatke koje sam pružio/la istraživaču koristi sljedeći pseudonim iz ponuđenog kataloga hrvatskih imena:

Želim da mi se, nakon provedenog istraživanja, dostavi audio snimka i transkript razgovora (molimo Vas da zaokružite željeni odgovor)

DA

NE

Ukoliko je odgovor DA, molimo Vas da navedete e-mail adresu na koju želite zaprimiti materijale, s obzirom na to da audio snimku nismo u mogućnosti slati poštom.

e-mail adresa: _____

Kućna adresa (u tom slučaju šalje se samo ispis transkripta razgovora poštom):

Svojim potpisom potvrđujem da sam informiran/a o ciljevima, prednostima i rizicima ovog istraživanja, da pristajem u njemu sudjelovati te da su gore navedeni odobreni načini korištenja mojih podataka i izjava u diseminaciji rezultata istraživanja točni.

I want my data to remain anonymous during the above-mentioned form of use (please mark the desired answer)

YES NO

If the answer is YES, I want the following pseudonym from the offered catalog of Croatian names to be used in addition to the statements and data I provided to the researcher:

I would like to receive an audio recording and a transcript of the conversation after the research has been conducted (please mark the desired answer)

YES NO

If the answer is YES, please indicate the e-mail address to which you would like to receive the materials, considering that we are unable to send the audio recording by post.

e-mail address: _____

Home address (in this case, only a printout of the conversation transcript is sent by mail):

With my signature, I confirm that I am informed about the goals, advantages and risks of this research, that I agree to participate in it, and that the above-mentioned approved ways of using my data and statements in the dissemination of the research results are correct.



Ethical problems with SOLIDARan interlocutors regarding anonymity

- Majority of the interlocutors **did not opt for the anonymity at all.**
- However, **some interlocutors opted for anonymity or did not want to sign informed consent at beginning** (eg. ex-drug users who are now members of certain cooperatives, women engaged in social entrepreneurship taking care about the elderly or disabled individuals).



Ethical problems other researchers and or institutions face regarding anonymity

- Majority of the interlocutors opt for the anonymity in research dealing with vulnerable group (eg. migrants, women engaged in care-industry, members of LGBTQ communities, women describing their IVF experiences...).
- However, some interlocutors opted for anonymity even if they are not members of any vulnerable group, they simply do not want their stories to be recognizable not now not in the future.



Some potential problems with making **all** the ethnographic and anthropological data available in open access

Confidentiality

In the process of ethnographic research is created between researcher and interlocutor.

Protection of dignity

Some research include vulnerable groups or people who reveal delicate personal data.

Granting anonymity

Sometimes the only way for the interlocutor to sign the informed consent.

Protection of dignity

Some researched communities are small and interlocutors recognizable even after anonymization.

Preventing potential data abuse

The interlocutor can not be sure who and how will use the data in the open access.

Researcher privacy?

Ethnographic interview is a conversation, where the researcher also can reveal private data.

Parts of the Ethical codex of Croatian Ethnological Society



- Based on the specifics of the discipline, consent to participate in research can be given in writing, orally, or in other ways acceptable in the community. Research participants are protected by anonymity, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the researcher and research participants.
- In the research, it is necessary to ensure the confidentiality of the total data and to inform the participants in a timely manner in case of changed circumstances (which violate the confidentiality of the personal data of the research participants).
- The participants in the research must first be familiarized with the topic, goal, methods, purpose and funding of the research and with the expected way of using the research results.
- It is necessary to familiarize research participants with the implications of the research, especially those that carry potential risks for the person or the researched community.
- When using the material and publishing the research results, it is necessary to assess the possible harmful effects on the community of the researched and the wider social community.
- The researcher is obliged to store and ensure adequate preservation of materials resulting from scientific research; with every scientific research project, it is necessary to think through and define the forms of use of the material in accordance with the goals and purpose of the project, as well as the methods of storage and the time of preservation of the material. Public use of materials is defined by individual institutional and archival regulations on the protection of materials and the privacy of research participants, and the researcher is obliged to prevent possible misuse of materials.

<https://hrvatskoetnoloskodrustvo.hr/o-nama/eticki-kodeks/>

(June 6th 2013)

Solutions?



- Informed consent should continue to clearly state how the data will be used in the future.
- Informed consent should include the option for interlocutor to forbid open access to the data (transcripts and audio files) even after the anonymity is granted.
- Optional: time-limit to access (?).
- Combination of FAIR and CARE principles for all research participants.
- Funding agencies should incorporate this ethical principle into their quest for making a more open science.



FAIR

Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets.

CARE

Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics

Concluding remark



If we insist on applying **FAIR principles** exclusively on data management,
ethnologist and cultural anthropologist
might end up collecting
FAIRy Tales
from the interlocutors!



thank you!

http://solidaran.inantro.hr/en/home_page/

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