Study days RésIn

How to conduct research in social sciences : fieldwork, methods, data

Site web : https://je-112026.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en

Organised by the médialab and the Centre de données socio-politiques (CDSP) at Sciences Po, the Résin Network Seminar is aimed at PhD students, early-career researchers, research engineers, and research support professionals interested to further develop their methodological skills in social science research methods. Through presentations, hands-on workshops, and experience-sharing sessions, participants will gain practical insights into designing and conducting surveys and fieldwork, addressing the challenges of complex research settings, and collecting, documenting, and disseminating research data. The event will be conducted primarily in French, with selected presentations and workshops offered in English.

*Some of the presentations and workshops of these study days will be **in English** (EN) : if so, it will be specified in the program. Please reach out if you need more information about the organisation of this event.*

Tuesday, November 17 2026

Sciences Po, room K.011 et C. 002, 1 place Saint Thomas, 75007 Paris

9h00-9h30	Coffee
9h30-9h40	Welcoming address and presentation of the program — Alina Danciu, CDSP et Audrey Baneyx, médialab
9h40-10h10	Finding and Understanding Research Data: A Practical Introduction to CLOSER Discovery — Hayley Mills, CLOSER, UCL [EN]
10h10-10h40	Investigating a sensitive subject: methodological reflections on a mixed-methods approach to loneliness and isolation — Hadrien Riffaut et Séverine Dessajan, CERLIS (Université Paris Cité, CNRS UMR 8070) [FR]
10h40-11h00	Break
11h00-11h30	Documenting living conditions and social relations during and after the health crisis: from immediate investigation to a longitudinal panel study – the example of the VICO survey — Pierre Mercklé, Université Grenoble Alpes, Pacte et Laurine Thizy, FNRS, Université de Liège [FR]
11h30-12h15	Discussion
12h15-14h00	Buffet

	[cafeteria, 13 rue de l'université]	
14h00-16h30	Workshop n°1 — Getting started with metadata and research data management — Alina Danciu, CDSP, Sciences Po and Becky Oldroyd, UCL, CLOSER [EN ; room K.011]	Workshop n°2 — (Self-)training in quantitative methods using large-scale surveys – Capucine Rauch, LifeObs, UNISTRA [FR, room C.002]
16h30-18h00	Film and Discussion — "En quête de chiffres" *(In search of figures)*, Simon Paye et Elsa Martin, SHS Nancy, Université de Lorraine	
18h00-19h30	Cocktail [cafeteria, 13 rue de l'université]	

Wednesday, November 18 2026

Sciences Po, room K.011 et C. 002, 1 place Saint Thomas, 75007 Paris

9h00-9h30	Coffee	
9h30-9h40	Welcoming address and presentation of the program — Alina Danciu, CDSP et Audrey Baneyx, médialab [EN & FR]	
9h40-10h10	Uncertainties and constraints in the collection of data on gender-based and sexual violence in higher education. The case of the SAFEDUC 2024 and SAFEDUC Dispositifs surveys — Victor Coutolleau, PRESAGE-IFE, Sciences Po [FR]	
10h10-10h40	The Coralim Survey: Mixed-methods approach and participatory research in schools — Christine Tichit, Centre Maurice-Halbwachs, INRAE [FR]	
10h40-11h00	Break	
11h00-11h30	Reorganising the space-time of the investigation: access constraints, the reorganisation of methodological approaches, and epistemological implications in the field of migration in Malaysia — Louise Perrodin, projet ERC GenderedClimateMig, laboratoire PRINTEMPS (UMR 8085, CNRS/UVSQ) [FR, en visioconférence]	
11h30-12h15	Discussion	
12h15-14h00	Buffet [room K.011]	
14h00-16h30	Workshop n°1 — From design to reuse: tracking the life cycle of survey data with ELIPSS and Re{quest – Emmanuelle Duwez et Lucie Marie, CDSP, Sciences Po [FR, room K.011]	Workshop n°2 — Testing theories in sensitive contexts: methodological and ethical challenges – Thomas Tari, Maxime Crépel, Robin de Mourat et Clémence Seurat, médialab, Sciences Po [FR, room C.002]

Detailed program

Tuesday, November 17 2026

9h40-10h10 | Finding and Understanding Research Data: A Practical Introduction to CLOSER Discovery – Hayley Mills, UCL

CLOSER Discovery is a free online research tool that brings together metadata (data about data) from the UK's leading longitudinal population studies. It enables researchers to search, browse and explore across survey questionnaires, questions, datasets, variables, topics, and study documentation through a single user-friendly interface. This presentation will demonstrate how CLOSER Discovery can support data discovery, cross-study comparison, and research planning, while highlighting how metadata helps researchers better understand the content, context, and origins of data. Attendees will learn how CLOSER Discovery can help them find, assess and understand relevant data more efficiently, to support informed decisions about dataset selection and research design before accessing and analysing data.

10h10-10h40 | Investigating a sensitive subject: methodological reflections on a mixed-methods approach to loneliness and isolation — Hadrien Riffaut et Séverine Dessajan, CERLIS (Université Paris Cité, CNRS UMR 8070)

The research carried out for the Fondation de France on loneliness is based on a mixed-methods approach, in which quantitative and qualitative methodologies are regarded as complementary. Five survey campaigns have been conducted since 2022, each year focusing on a different theme addressing various aspects of the experience of loneliness and isolation: places, time, social circles, digital technology, and so on.

As regards the qualitative component, the proposed research methodology is ethnographic. It combines formal and informal data collection techniques (interviews, informal discussions, eavesdropping, observations). The approach is comprehensive (it captures the perspectives of those involved). It is also inductive (it adopts a very open stance and allows elements from the field to emerge whilst remaining faithful to the set objectives). The research corpus is twofold. On the one hand, stakeholders from the voluntary sector involved in maintaining social ties – and in particular in initiatives aimed at the survey's target group – were interviewed; on the other hand, people experiencing isolation were interviewed. As for the quantitative component, Crédoc is conducting a survey of a representative sample of 3,000 people aged 15 and over, residing throughout the country (mainland France, Corsica and the overseas departments and regions). Respondents are selected using the quota method (region, size of urban area, age, gender, individual or collective housing, and socio-professional category).

In this presentation, we will examine the methodological challenges of such an approach, as well as the limitations encountered in the field, viewing these as points for reflection on future research directions.

11h00-11h30 | Documenting living conditions and social relations during and after the health crisis: from immediate investigation to a longitudinal panel study – the example of the VICO survey — Pierre Mercklé, Université Grenoble Alpes, Pacte et Laurine Thizy, FNRS, Université de Liège

Launched during the first lockdown in spring 2020, the Vico survey was originally intended to document the changes in the living conditions and social relationships of French people during this exceptional period. The opportunity afforded by a large initial sample, the prolonged nature of the crisis and the securing of funding from the ANR led to the transformation of an 'immediate' questionnaire-based survey into a longitudinal panel study using mixed methods – comprising questionnaires and interviews – which continues to this day to document the long-term social consequences of the health crisis.

In this presentation, we aim to review the various stages of this long-term study, detail the different methodological choices made, and present the results and data, part of which (2020–2024) has just been made available in the CDSP's database.

14h00-16h30 | Workshop n°1 : Getting started with metadata and research data management — Alina Danciu, CDSP, Sciences Po and Becky Oldroyd, UCL, CLOSER

Metadata, often described as "data about data", helps researchers organize, understand, share, and reuse their data. This half-day workshop introduces the fundamentals of metadata, research data management, and data management plans (DMPs), highlighting their role in supporting high-quality, well-documented research. Participants will also gain an overview of metadata standards, including the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), and take part in practical activities and discussions to explore how these tools can improve the discoverability, transparency, and reuse of research data.

The workshop will take place in English, but we can discuss partially in French if it is more convenient for some attendees.

14h00-16h30 | Workshop n°2 : (Self-)training in quantitative methods using large-scale surveys – Capucine Rauch, LifeObs, UNISTRA

How can quantitative methods be taught in the social sciences and humanities using real, documented and reusable data? How can students be introduced to R, large-scale surveys and the process of generating statistical results without relying on artificial or decontextualised datasets? How can one learn to reuse public statistics surveys independently?

This workshop will present the teaching kits designed by LifeObs' training department; these kits are designed for self-study and for teaching quantitative methods, as well as for the reuse of representative national surveys on life courses (Erfi, Envie, etc.). These freely accessible teaching resources are aimed both at students, PhD candidates, researchers and engineers wishing to learn R and survey data analysis independently, and at lecturers seeking ready-to-use materials for their courses on quantitative methods in the social sciences and humanities.

Wednesday, November 18 2026

9h40-10h10 | Uncertainties and constraints in the collection of data on gender-based and sexual violence in higher education. The case of the SAFEDUC 2024 and SAFEDUC Dispositifs surveys — Victor Coutolleau, PRESAGE-IFE, Sciences Po

This paper presents a review of the experience gained from the roll-out of two surveys on gender-based and sexual violence (GBV) amongst the student population: 1) *SAFEDUC 2024*, a quantitative survey on exposure to SGV amongst student populations at Sciences Po and Université Paris Cité (n = 4,649, see Bonnot et al. 2025) and 2) *SAFEDUC Dispositifs*, a qualitative survey (currently underway) examining students' attitudes towards policies to combat SGBV in higher education, within the same institutions. In addition to presenting the objectives, methods and protocols of the two surveys, the paper aims primarily to reflect on the unforeseen challenges encountered during their design.

The presentation will be structured in three parts. Firstly, it will situate the SAFEDUC surveys within the broader landscape of research into gender-based and sexual violence in higher education. This section will begin by examining the difficulties faced by national prevalence surveys in covering the student population (Lebugle et al. 2020). It will then present existing surveys in the French context, which are divided between initiatives by civil society organisations (for example, the Student Observatory on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2023), surveys conducted at the level of individual institutions (see, for example, Nantes University 2023; Richardot, Laglenne, and Guérin 2025), and more rare studies at national level (Bègue 2024; Belghith et al. 2024; Lebugle et al. 2020) and European level (Lipinsky et al. 2022).

The second part will revisit the roll-out of the SAFEDUC 2024 survey and the difficulties that accompanied it (Coutolleau, Le Gallic-Ach, and Périvier 2025). The survey was, in fact, the subject of debate regarding any potential reporting obligations that might apply to participating institutions, given that the survey asked students about their experiences of acts of violence that could be classified as such under the law. However, these potential reporting obligations conflicted with the ethical principle of confidentiality underpinning research activities, as well as with certain principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

To resolve this issue, the research team opted for a survey protocol that restricted access to the questionnaire to students at Sciences Po and Université Paris Cité only, whilst recording anonymous responses. However, this solution meant that it was not possible to link individual responses to students' administrative data, which would have reduced the time taken to complete the questionnaire and improved the quality of the data available for analysis and for sample adjustment (Le Gallic-Ach, Coutolleau, and Périvier 2026).

Whilst this solution enabled the roll-out of SAFEDUC 2024, it is, however, unsuitable for SAFEDUC Dispositifs: as the latter is a qualitative research project, it does not allow for strictly anonymous data collection. This new survey therefore required further discussions with the legal departments and data protection officers of both institutions, as well as with a research ethics committee. Following several months of discussions, it became clear that the research team would only need to lift the confidentiality of participants' involvement in the event of a court order or an imminent danger reported by a participant.

Whilst this conclusion is consistent with that of other studies (Beck, Cavalin, and Maillochon 2010; Hamel and the Virage team 2020), the fact that it thus stands at odds with the opinions issued for SAFEDUC 2024 illustrates the legal uncertainty surrounding studies on VSS. However, this legal uncertainty has a direct impact on the working conditions of research teams and other professionals called upon to contribute to these surveys. These difficulties are therefore likely to affect the quality of the available data on this issue in the medium term.

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10h10-10h40 | The Coralim Survey: Mixed-methods approach and participatory research in schools — Christine Tichit, INRAE

CORALIM is a participatory study conducted by INRAE and the CNRS in partnership with priority education schools in the Paris Academy, where social science researchers collaborate with teachers and students. The research focuses on socialization and social differentiation in childhood. More than 1,500 students have participated in the program in France and Europe since 2010. Together with the researchers, the students engage in the scientific process by learning to formulate a research question and develop data-collection tools; they then participate in analyzing the collected data and presenting the results. In addition to its educational dimension, this research addresses specific scientific and methodological objectives: to test the data collection and analysis categories typically used in quantitative surveys—particularly those involving children—in order to validate or refine data collection techniques by having respondents reflect on the materials gathered regarding their own practices. To this end, the CORALIM methodology combines qualitative and quantitative approaches (mixed methods). It relies on a series of repeated surveys conducted across several waves of digital statistical data collection (2012, 2016, 2021, 2025), supplemented by annual ethnographic fieldwork with each cohort of students involved in the participatory component of the research. The regular workshops, where students experiment with the tools provided, process data, and learn to interpret it collectively by discussing the results, serve as observation settings for researchers and allow them to gather the discursive materials—both collective and individual—that form the basis of their work. The presentation will focus on concrete examples of how this methodology has been implemented, as well as some of the results.
Survey webpage: https://solal.hypotheses.org/1698

11h00-11h30 | Reorganising the space-time of the investigation: access constraints, the reorganisation of methodological approaches, and epistemological implications in the field of migration in Malaysia — Louise Perrodin, projet ERC GenderedClimateMig, laboratoire PRINTEMPS (UMR 8085, CNRS/UVSQ)

The combination of difficulties in gaining access to field sites is very clearly evident in the 'Terrains Empêchés' survey, conducted jointly by INALCO and CNRS GIS Études Aréales from 2024 onwards. This presentation brings together the findings of this survey with a reflective analysis of the methods used to gain access to field sites in Malaysia since 2015, as part of a master's thesis and a doctoral thesis on the negotiation of the right to asylum for and by Rohingya exiles, followed by a postdoctoral research project on migration dynamics in the context of climate change, analysed through a gender lens. The constraints on access to the field and the necessary reorganisation of methodological approaches will be analysed from an intersectional perspective (gender, race, class, disability). The presentation will examine the epistemological implications of these adjustments, as well as what they enable us to learn about the field under study.

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14h30-16h30 | Workshop n°1 : From design to reuse: tracking the life cycle of survey data with ELIPSS and Re{quest – Emmanuelle Duwez et Lucie Marie, CDSP, Sciences Po

What happens to survey data, from the design of the questionnaire right through to its dissemination and reuse by other research teams?

This two-part workshop explores the life cycle of survey data using two initiatives from the Centre for Socio-Political Data (CDSP): ELIPSS and Re{quest.

Launched at the end of 2012, ELIPSS is a probabilistic panel dedicated to social science research. Since the first data collection in 2013, researchers have carried out over a hundred questionnaire-based surveys amongst a panel representative of the French population. In 2025, the CDSP developed Re{quest, a tool for discovering, comparing and reusing survey questions in the humanities and social sciences. The tool enables users to search for and compare nearly 70,000 survey questions and variables, more than half of which come from the ELIPSS platform.

Through a presentation of both initiatives, we will demonstrate that the way in which a survey is designed and documented directly influences the ability to retrieve, understand and reuse the data several years later. Subsequently, this workshop will enable participants to explore and reuse ELIPSS resources through an introductory session on Re{quest.

> **Equipment required**: computer; good-quality internet connection; up-to-date web browser

14h30-16h30 | Workshop n°2 : Testing theories in sensitive contexts: methodological and ethical challenges – Thomas Tari, Maxime Crépel, Robin de Mourat et Clémence Seurat

Certain research settings are described as 'sensitive' or 'difficult' because of the populations they involve, the situations taking place there, the risks they entail, or the ethical issues they raise. However, the sensitivity of a field site is not necessarily an intrinsic characteristic of the site itself: it may also emerge during the research, through a relationship, an unexpected situation, a conflict of roles or a change in context. It reveals the position of researchers

within their field sites and the ambiguous dynamics of the research relationship required to gain acceptance within a community, collect data or encourage participation. Conducting research in such situations involves a series of trade-offs that can rarely be reduced to the application of general rules, but must instead be adapted to the people and issues encountered, which can give rise to ethical and professional dilemmas. How can one negotiate access to the field and consent in complex or tense contexts? How can one conduct research amongst or with vulnerable people without causing them harm? What should one do when the multiple demands of a field setting come into conflict? How should one deal with the emotional and personal impact of encountering difficult situations and life stories?

Building on a presentation of two research projects on people living rough and spaces for digital inclusion, this workshop aims to examine and articulate the challenges of conducting research in sensitive contexts. The focus will be less on defining general principles or applicable methods and more on examining the forms of adaptation and interaction that enable an investigation in a sensitive context to continue – but sometimes also to be suspended, modified or abandoned.

Biographies

Victor Coutolleau

Victor Coutolleau is a postdoctoral researcher within Sciences Po's gender research and teaching programme (PRESAGE-IFE). He specialises in the sociology of relationships, separations and gender-based violence. He helped develop the SAFEDUC survey (UPCité-Sciences Po, 2024) and is currently working on the roll-out of the SAFEDUC Dispositifs survey (UPCité-Sciences Po).

Maxime Crépel

Maxime Crépel is a sociologist and research engineer at Sciences Po's médialab. His research focuses on digital practices and methods.

Alina Danciu

Alina Danciu is a team leader at Sciences Po, CDSP. She specialises in DDI and CoreTrustSeal. She secured funding as a Principal Investigator on the FAIRwDDI project, working on FAIR and DDI research, as well as DDI training resources and AI-assisted metadata curation.

Séverine Dessajean

Séverine Dessajan, a socio-anthropologist and engineer at CERLIS (Centre for Research on Social Ties, Université Paris Cité, CNRS UMR 8070), is helping to collect qualitative data and is involved in interpreting and analysing the data.

Contact : severine.dessajan@u-pariscite.fr

Emmanuelle Duwez

With a background in philosophy and sociology (University of Lille 3), Emmanuelle Duwez completed a Master's degree in 'Social Science Research Design' at the University of Lille 1 in 2009. She worked primarily in the field of higher education (evaluation of public policies, followed by a regional observatory) before joining the CDSP in October 2011 as head of

quantitative data catalogue development. As part of these activities, she occasionally taught quantitative methods in the social sciences at Sciences Po and contributed to the European Social Survey.
After coordinating the development of all the quantitative surveys produced as part of the Longitudinal Internet Study for the Social Sciences (ELIPSS) programme, she became head of the programme.
She is also head of the 'Data Production' team.

Lucie Marie
Lucie Marie is an engineer in the CDSP's Documentation and Dissemination team. She is in charge of the Re{quest project, a platform designed to promote the reuse of data from questionnaire surveys, and in this capacity coordinates the third phase of the FAIRwDDI project.

Pierre Mercklé
University Professor of Sociology (Université Grenoble Alpes, Pacte).

Hayley Mills
Dr Hayley Mills leads on content development for CLOSER's flagship project CLOSER Discovery - the UK's most comprehensive research tool for longitudinal population studies.

Hayley organises the CLOSER Community of Practices for Data Managers (Data Managers Network) and works closely with the Data Managers from CLOSER's study partners. As previous co-chair of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance Training Working Group, Hayley creates new training materials, and provides metadata and DDI training to global audiences. Hayley is currently co-chair of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance Questions and Questionnaires Working Group which aims to provide guidelines and training for building and managing questions and questionnaires.
After completing a PhD in palaeo sea level records, Hayley worked as a Marine Data Scientist at the British Oceanographic Data Centre and has over 10 years' experience of metadata management.

Robin de Mourat
Robin de Mourat is a designer and researcher at Sciences Po's médialab. His work lies at the intersection of design, the social sciences and digital methods.

Becky Olroyd
Becky Oldroyd is a Metadata Manager at CLOSER. She is responsible for preparing, quality-checking and managing the metadata in CLOSER's research tool, CLOSER Discovery, which enables the research and data community to find, assess and understand UK longitudinal population study data.

Louise Perrodin
Louise Perrodin is a postdoctoral researcher at the PRINTEMPS laboratory (UMR 8085, CNRS/UVSQ) working on the ERC GenderedClimateMig project. This project enables her to

continue her research into migration to Malaysia. Her PhD thesis focused on the day-to-day negotiation of the right to asylum for Rohingya exiles in Malaysia (Léon Bourgeois Prize awarded by GRAM-CNRS and AFNU). Her research focuses on the political uses of ambiguity and the intertwining of local and international dynamics in the reconfiguration of marginality, as well as on the construction of the force of international law. She was also a postdoctoral researcher on the 'Terrains Empêchés' project at INALCO, for which she analysed data from a survey distributed amongst female researchers in area studies. She is also an associate member of CASE (Centre for South-East Asian Studies) and a fellow at ICMigrations.

Capucine Rauch
Capucine Rauch, a research engineer specialising in the processing and analysis of survey data, develops teaching materials for training in quantitative methods based on large-scale social science surveys as part of the Equipex LifeObs programme.

Hadrien Riffaut
Hadrien Riffaut, a sociologist and associate researcher at CERLIS, the Centre for Research on Social Ties (Université Paris Cité, CNRS UMR 8070), is the scientific director of the survey and coordinates the entire project.
Contact : hriffautenquete@gmail.com

Clémence Seurat
Clémence Seurat is a publisher, author and research associate at Sciences Po's médialab. She explores the fields of political ecology and techno-criticism.

Thomas Tari
Thomas Tari is a sociologist at Sciences Po's médialab. He is currently conducting field research into initiatives designed to raise the profile of people who have died whilst living on the streets.

Laurine Thizy
Postdoctoral researcher in sociology (FNRS, University of Liège).

Christine Tichit
Christine Tichit is a sociologist and demographer, and a researcher at the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) at the Maurice-Halbwachs Center (CMH). At the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), she coordinates the "food and nutrition" component of the ELFE Cohort alongside Blandine De Lauzon (CESP-INRAE), and leads the CORALIM participatory research project at INRAE. Her research interests span the sociology of food, childhood, family, and migration, and she currently focuses her work on food socialization and acculturation, domestic work, and school meal programs. Throughout her research, she combines multidisciplinary, qualitative, and quantitative (mixed methods) approaches—including biographical and/or longitudinal studies—and explores the conditions for participatory research in the social and human sciences. She is a member of the INES research cluster at the CMH and participates in several research networks in the sociology of food, both in France (SOLAL) and across Europe.

Organizing committee

- Alina Danciu, CDSP
- Lucie Marie, CDSP
- Audrey Baneyx, médialab
- Marine Chuberre, médialab
- Maud Marucheau de Chanaud, Université Paris Cité