



Out and About?

Risks and other challenges of fieldwork
for LGBTQIA+ scientists.

Ronnie Bailey-Steinitz (she/her/hers)

PhD Candidate, Anthropology

UC Santa Barbara

Image: Norbert Wu



 @RoamingEcologist

 @RoamingRonnie



Outline

1. Personal experience
2. General risks of fieldwork
3. Added risks of queer fieldworkers
4. Activities
5. What can we do to make things better?

Some terms...

- **Gender identity:** your own, internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman (or as someone outside of that gender binary). **E.g., man, woman, trans woman, non-binary, gender-fluid**
- **Sexual orientation:** describes a person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person. **E.g., straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, queer**
- **Transgender:** people who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the cultural expectations of the sex that they were assigned at birth. Some people desire medical assistance to transition from one sex to another. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.
- **Gender expression:** External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body characteristics or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms> | <https://www.glaad.org/>

Queer exclusion from STEM fields

Hughes, 2018

- LGBTQ+ students are 8-10% less likely to be retained in STEM majors (despite greater research participation)
- Gender disparity in STEM is reversed in LGBTQ+ students
 - Queer male students drop out at higher rates
 - Queer female students retained at higher rate
- Possibly due to gender norms within these fields
 - Masculinity is encouraged over femininity



Fieldwork:

- Foreign researchers
- Local research assistants
- Cooks, guards, drivers
- Government officials
- Community members



“ HOMOSEXUALITY IS OFTEN DENOUNCED AS "NON-UGANDAN", AN IMPORT FROM THE WEST. IT IS INTERESTING, THEN, TO LEARN THAT HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN UGANDA UNTIL THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OUTLAWED IT IN THE 1800S. ”

<https://www.responsiblevacation.com/vacations/uganda/travel-guide/lgbt-holidays-in-uganda>

50% of countries that criminalize homosexuality belong to the Commonwealth, governing 25% of world population



African sexuality and the legacy of imported homophobia

In June, Botswana overturned colonial-era laws which criminalised homosexuality, with the judge, Michael Leburu, declaring that **“the anti-sodomy laws are a British import”** and were developed “without the consultation of local peoples”.

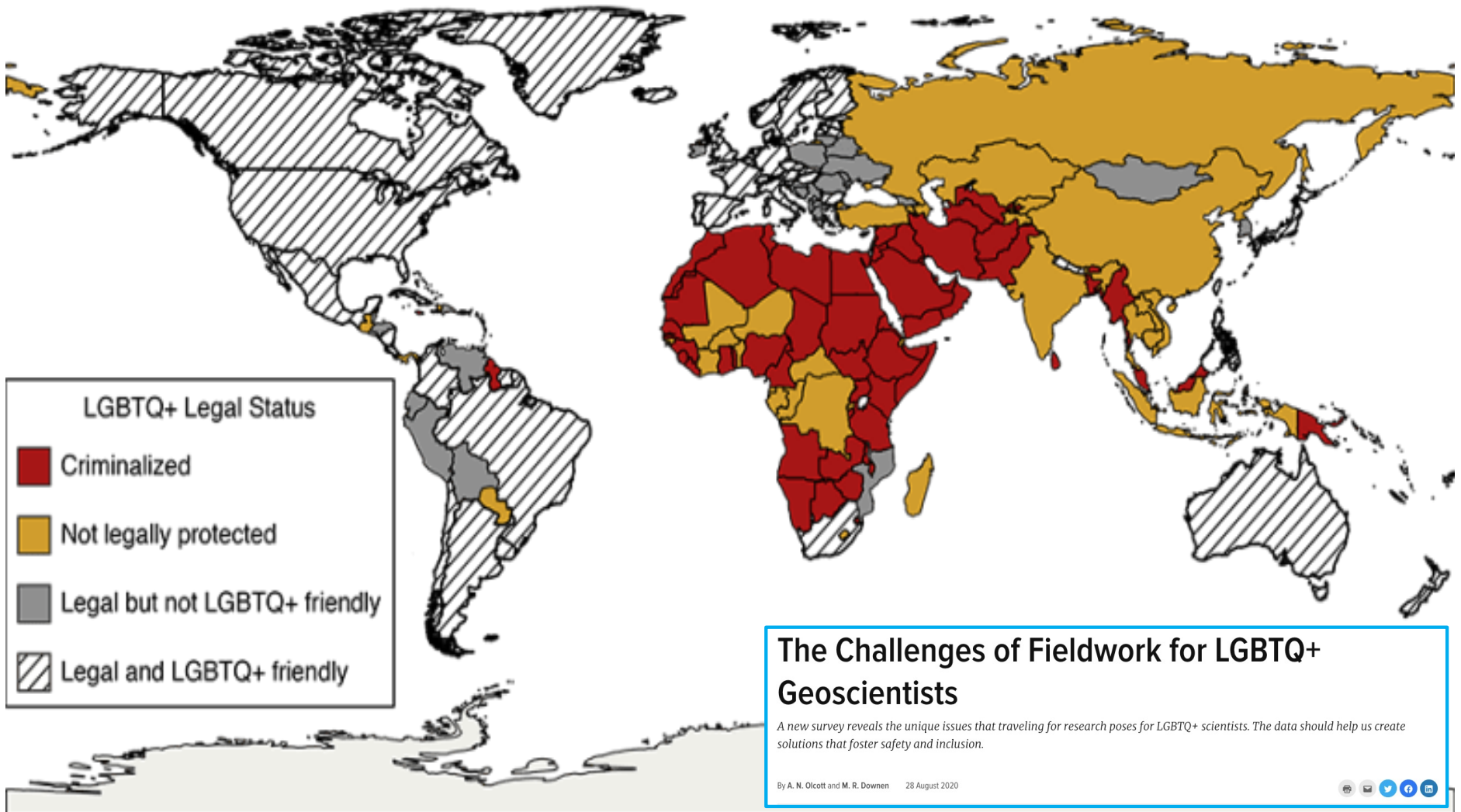
<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/african-sexuality-and-legacy-imported-homophobia>

GOD LOVES UGANDA

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

HD TRAILER





Why is risk heightened during field work?

- Interpersonal interactions
- Isolation
- Confined physical/social area
- Physically demanding work
- Time and funding pressure
- Gatekeeping, field culture, hierarchies

SCIENTIFIC
AMERICAN.

POLICY | OPINION

The Dark Side of Being a Female Shark Researcher

Being a scientist should not require developing the grit to continually endure misogyny, discrimination, harassment, assault or bullying

By Catherine Macdonald on August 10, 2020



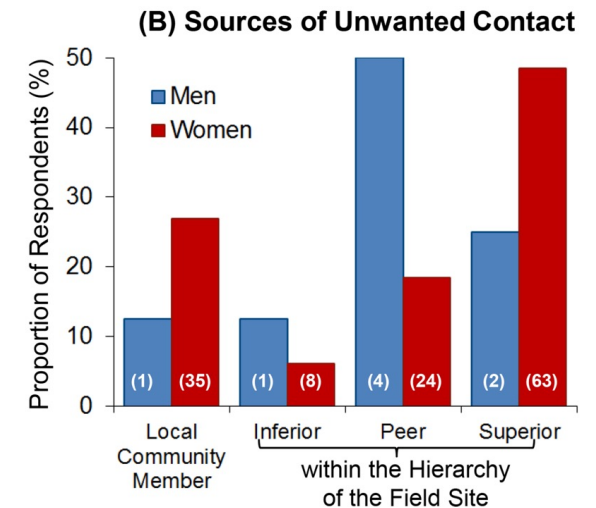
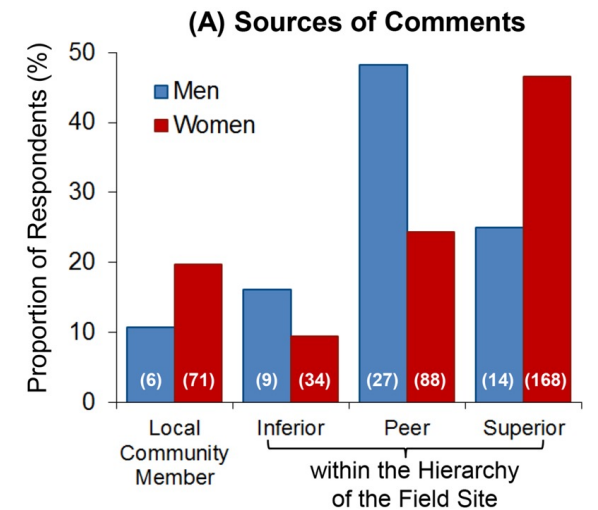
Harassment in Field Settings

Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE): Trainees Report Harassment and Assault

Kathryn B. H. Clancy , Robin G. Nelson, Julianne N. Rutherford, Katie Hinde

Published: July 16, 2014 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0102172>

- 32 academic disciplines
 - 75% witnessed harassment
 - 64% experienced harassment
 - 20% experienced sexual assault
- Trainees most vulnerable
- Instigated by
 - Senior researchers (for women)
 - Peers (for men)



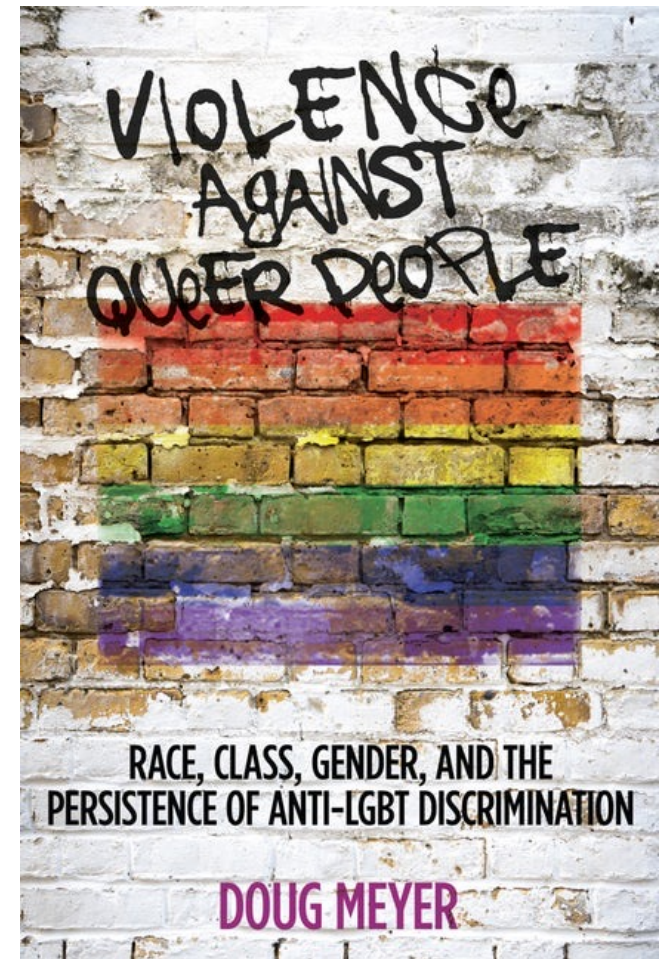
for queer people

Why is risk heightened^v during field work?

- Interpersonal interactions → Reveal personal information
- Isolation → Impaired mental health
- Confined physical/social area → Trapped in harmful environment
- Physically demanding work → Healthcare might be unsafe
- Time and funding pressure → Delays, poor outcomes for research
- Gatekeeping, field culture, hierarchies → Harassment

Queerness and Violence

- Gender role ideology and LGBTQ+ violence are often linked (Alden & Parker, 2004)
- Homophobia is related to heightened levels of masculinity (Parrot et al., 2002)
- Homophobic hostility leads to extreme self-surveillance where gender roles are enforced (Mason, 2001)



“For many lesbian and gay men the knowledge they may be targeted for homophobic violence ... becomes a variable in the **mapping of safety**, whether they have directly encountered violence or not.”

–*Gail Mason, Body Maps (2001)*

For queer people, the feeling of safety in a new situation will depend on previous experiences

Intersectionality

- Anti-LGBT+ violence (in the US) is experienced differently depending on the race and gender of the victim
- Queerness is treated differently based on context

PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBT CRIMES

PACIFIC STANDARD STAFF · UPDATED: JUN 14, 2017 · ORIGINAL: JUN 27, 2016

In 2019, at least 25 transgender or gender non-conforming people were fatally shot or killed by other violent means.*

91%

of them were
Black women.

81%

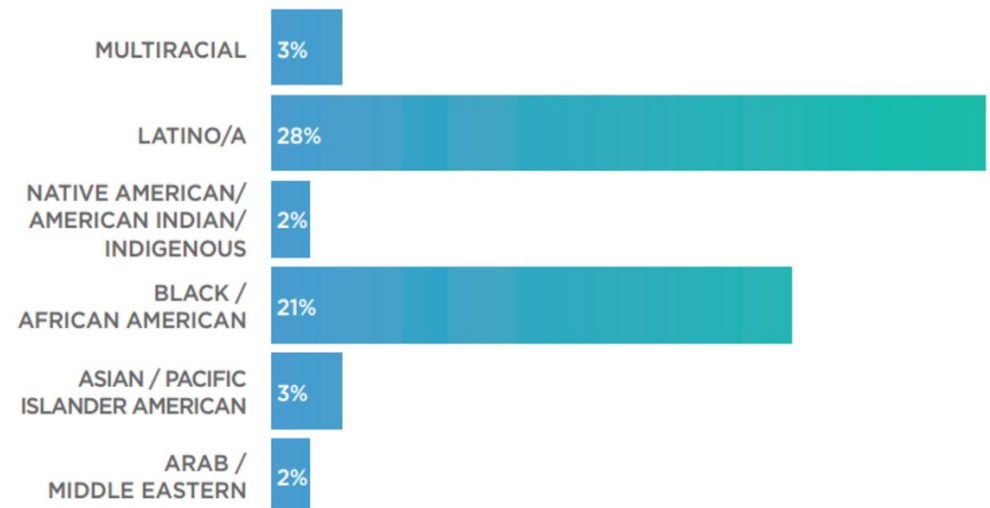
were under the
age of 30.

68%

lived in the
South.

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF SURVIVORS OF COLOR

N=931



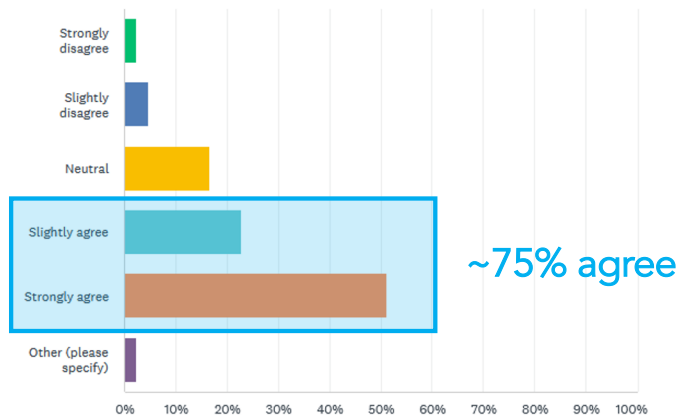
Activity 1 – *fieldwork prep*

1. Off the top of your head, list as many field safety resources that your institutions offer (3 min)
 - Online information, handouts
 - Protocols, courses
 - Gear
2. Go to your institution's website. Make a list of safety resources specifically for LGBTQ+ field researchers? (10 min)
 - Student Health Services
 - Office of Field Safety
 - LGBTQ+ Resource Center
 - Others?

Why is fieldwork important?

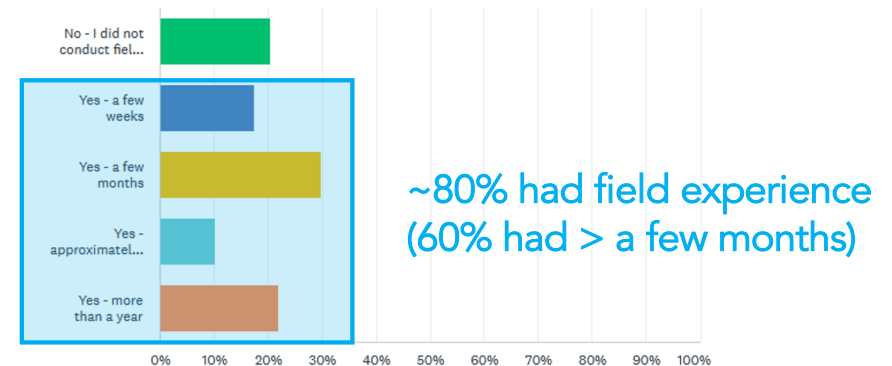
All else being equal, I would prefer to accept a strong PhD applicant with field work experience rather than one without such experience.

Answered: 127 Skipped: 11



Did you have field work experience before entering a PhD program? If yes, please estimate the cumulative duration of your experience(s) prior to entering graduate school.

Answered: 137 Skipped: 1

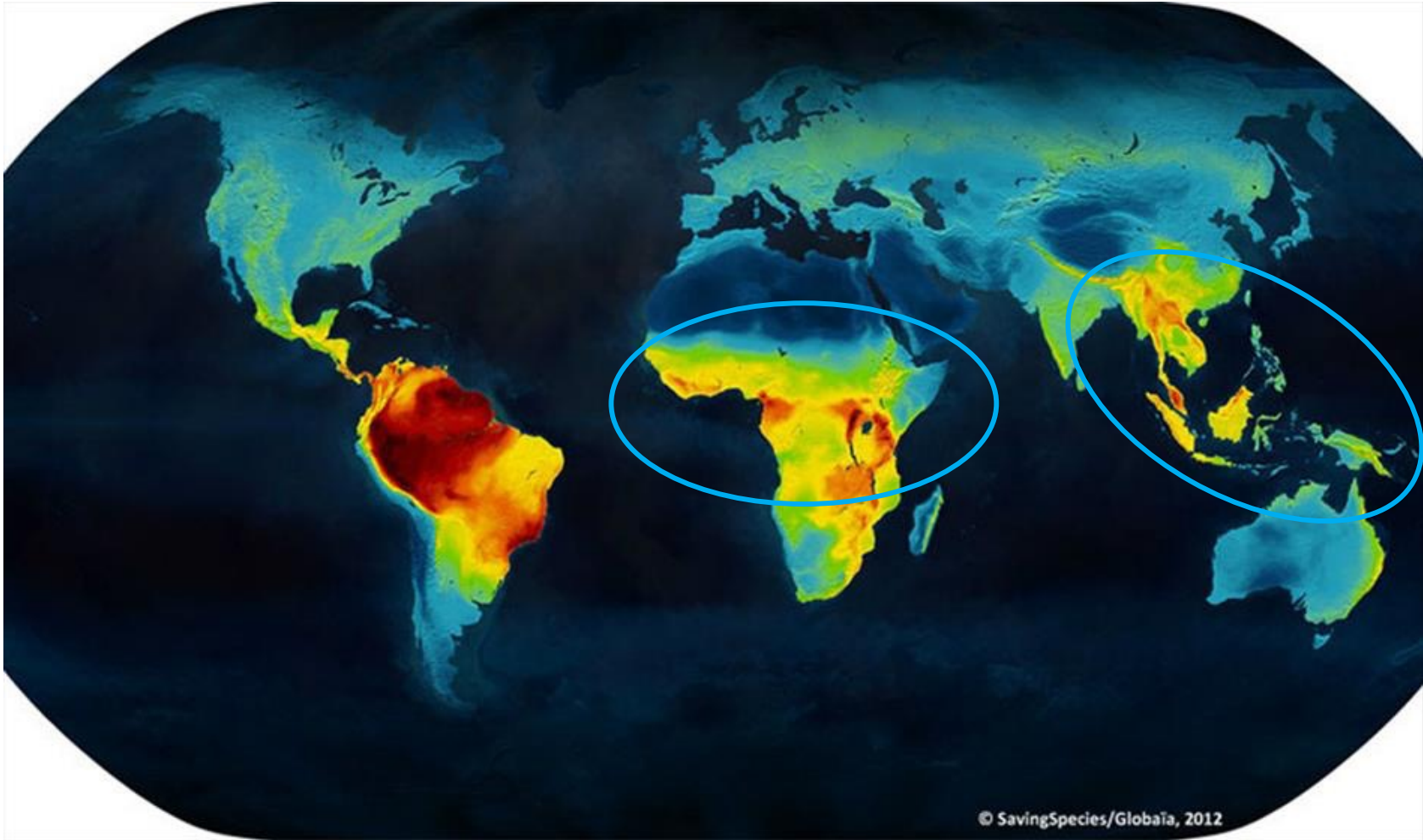


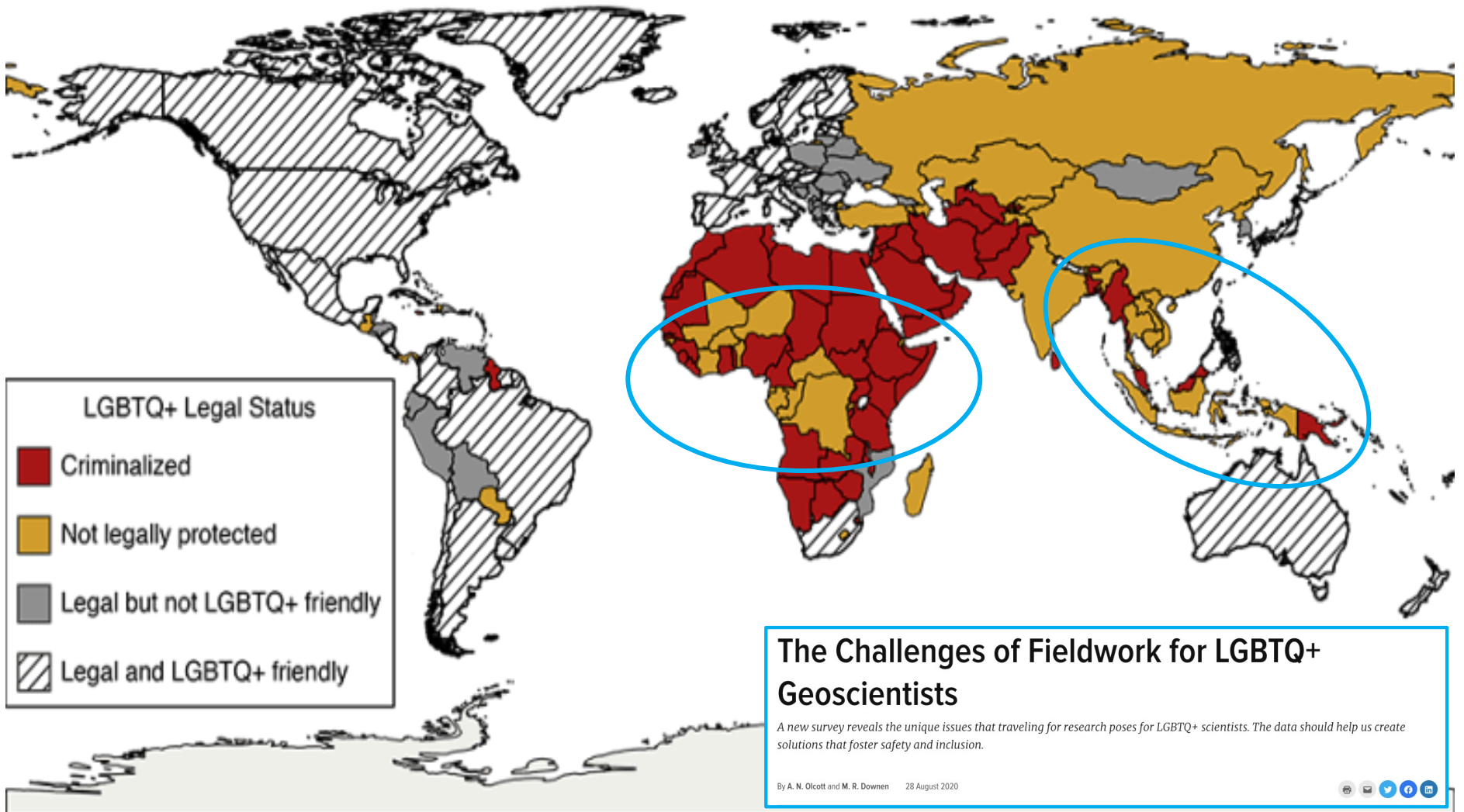
Fieldwork as Preparation for Graduate Studies

A 2020 survey of faculty in PhD-granting anthropology departments in US universities

Michelle Brown, PhD

Department of Anthropology, UCSB





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Travel.State.Gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE — BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS

U.S. Passports

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International Parental Child Abduction

Records

Before You Go

Country Information

While Abroad

[Emergencies](#)

[Travel.State.Gov](#) > [International Travel](#) > [Before You Go](#) > [Travelers with Special Considerations](#) > LGBTI Travel Information



Traveler's Checklist

Safety and Security Messaging

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

Traveler Information

Adventure Travel

U.S. Travelers in Europe

High Risk Area Travelers

LGBTI Travelers

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) travelers can face unique challenges when traveling abroad. Laws and attitudes in some countries may affect safety and ease of travel. Legal protections vary from country to country. Many countries do not **legally recognize same-sex marriage**. More than **seventy** countries consider consensual same-sex sexual relations a **crime**, sometimes carrying severe punishment.

ALL +/-

Before You Travel



Activity 2 – *In the field*

A man is carrying out fieldwork in Malaysia. He finishes work for the day and video-calls his male-presenting partner back home. A staff member overhears the conversation, and word about his identity quickly spreads in the community.

The next day, the researcher is injured in the field and needs medical care. He is rushed to a local hospital but is refused care because of his identity.

1. Go to: www.pridefieldnetwork.com
then, Fieldwork Safety Map
 - What anti-queer laws are in place in this region?
 - Is the risk for queer people only legal or there a risk to their physical safety as well?
2. As a team leader, how would you address the situation? Who would you involve? Would your institution intervene?



What can we do?

1. Increase visibility, inclusivity



Welcome to OUTreach at UCSB!

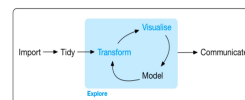
Anth 123MG: Introduction to Data Analysis for the Social Sciences with R

~Spring 2022~

Did you know that analysts spend up to 80% of their time wrangling and visualizing data to prepare it for tests and reports? In this course, students develop proficiency to do this, harnessing data to answer questions. Such data literacy and analytical proficiency is valuable for any research position whether in industry, academia, or the nonprofit sector. Students will learn to explore, transform, visualize, and communicate data using the R programming language - one of the most popular languages in data science. The course culminates in final group projects and presentations using a chosen dataset and research question.



When: T R 2:00-3:15
Where: TBD



- Learn to
- Code in R and Rstudio
 - Wrangle with tidy & dplyr
 - Visualize with ggplot2
 - Version control with GitHub
 - Report in Rmarkdown & GitHub Pages
 - Basic hypothesis testing

(Wickham & Grolemund, 2016)

Prerequisites: Although this is not a statistics course, Anth 9 or the equivalent is a prerequisite. Students with a strong interest in quantitative research and reporting, and an accessible dataset of interest, will likely reap the most benefit from the class.



Instructor: Dr. [Name]

How to enroll: Fill out the google form at the link below and, if you are eligible, [Name] will contact you by email.
<https://forms.gle/qwUcK79fyzAP3ktj8>

LGBTQ SAFE SPACE TRAININGS

SPRING 2019 CALENDAR

Join us for LGBTQ Safe Space Training! The mission of Cal State Fullerton's Safe Space Training program, hosted by the LGBTQ Queer Resource Center, is to educate students, staff, and faculty about sexual orientation and gender identity. The Safe Space Training program provides participants with the opportunity to learn more about social identities, current issues, LGBTQ affirming practices, and skills to take action to create more equitable and inclusive spaces on our campus and in their everyday. After attending both sessions, participants are eligible to receive a Safe Space sticker and commit to being on the Safe Space roster.

SIGN UP AT [HTTP://WWW.FULLERTON.EDU/LGBTQ/TRAINING/](http://www.fullerton.edu/lgbtq/training/)

PART 1

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019
2:30 - 4:30p

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019
2:00-4:00p

PART 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019
2:30-4:30p

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019
10:00-3:00p

LGBT Queer Resource Center

Hours
Mon - Fri, 8:00a - 5:00p

Location
Polak Library, South 180

Phone
657-278-428

Email
lgbtq@fullerton.edu

Website
www.fullerton.edu/lgbtq

Instagram
[@lgbtqcsuf](https://www.instagram.com/lgbtqcsuf)

Facebook
[lgbtqcsuf](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqcsuf)



Landscape of uncertainty

- Types of fieldwork vary
- Fieldwork may be done alone, in groups
- Research team:
 - university-affiliates
 - non-affiliated academics/institutions
 - non-affiliated locals
- Working environment:
 - Working or social hierarchies
 - Community interactions
 - Cultural norms

What can we do?

2. Promote a safe environment

- Use of pronouns, dissemination of resources
- Create dialogue (ask, listen, intervene)
- All gender restrooms
- Personal spaces
- Bullying and harassment guidelines
- Equal opportunity guidelines for recruitment
- Confidentiality guidelines
- Cultural awareness guidelines
- Clear reporting structure

E.g., <https://rcsgd.sa.ucsb.edu/education/supporting-lgbtq-students-in-the-classroom>

Additional considerations

- What about non-U.S. citizen (international, undocumented) researchers?
- Who has the primary responsibility for researchers' safety?
- How do we negotiate the legal vs. social aspects of queer presentation and safety?
- The safety of queer researchers should be a priority for the institution, including at home
 - *Is it though?*

A Lawsuit Accuses Harvard of Ignoring Sexual Harassment by a Professor

The controversy surrounding John Comaroff, an anthropologist, has divided the faculty, with scholars like Jill Lepore and Henry Louis Gates Jr. supporting their colleague.

Texas' Trans Kids Are Targets in a Brutal GOP Culture War

A new vigilante scheme requires everyone to report on transgender youth—or face prosecution.

BY MARK JOSEPH STERN FEB 23, 2022 • 5:56 PM



Amendment to "Don't Say Gay" bill in Florida requires schools to out students to their parents within six weeks hill.cm/bReBIX8

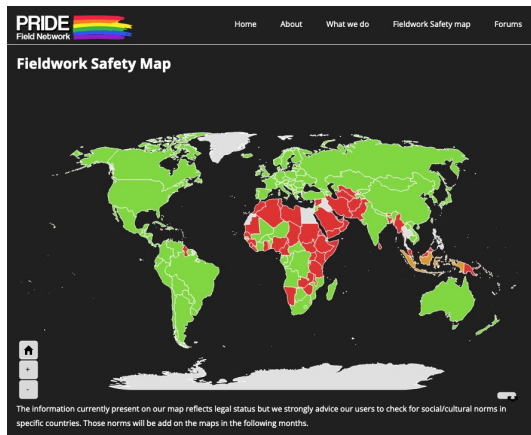


What can we do?

3. Think queer

- What are the local laws?
- What are the local gender norms (behavior/dress)?
- What are the sleeping arrangements? Bathrooms?
- Is there mention of queerness in the guide/code?
- How would a student know they can be out to me?
- How do I know it's okay to be out to other members of the team?
- How personal do conversations get in the field?
- If I'm outed, will I be able to get my work done?
- If I'm outed and it is not safe, who can I turn to?
- If I'm outed and it is not safe, can I get away to a place that is safe?
- If I'm harassed for being queer, what are my options?

Some resources



<https://www.pridefieldnetwork.com/>



<https://queerbioanth.org/>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7537077/video/456671555>

- ▶ **What is sexual orientation?**
- ▶ **How do people know if they are lesbian, gay, or bisexual?**
- ▶ **What causes a person to have a particular sexual orientation?**
- ▶ **What role do prejudice and discrimination play in the lives of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people?**
- ▶ **What is the psychological impact of prejudice and discrimination?**

<https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/orientation>

Additional resources available in the shared Google Drive folder

A vibrant rainbow arches over a dense forest and a body of water under a dark, stormy sky. The rainbow's colors are bright and distinct, contrasting sharply with the dark, heavy clouds above. The forest below is lush and green, and the water in the foreground is dark and calm. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

Questions?

Image: Norbert Wu