

Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations



Dr. Peter Matanle
School of East Asian Studies
p.matanle@sheffield.ac.uk



Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations

1. The Problem of Distance

What kinds of problems, or obstacles, does doing fieldwork away from home present?

- Practical/Logistical
- Conceptual/Methodological
- Philosophical/Cultural

- *Before going*



Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations

1. The Problem of Distance

What kinds of problems, or obstacles, does doing fieldwork away from home present?

- Practical/Logistical
 - Conceptual/Methodological
 - Philosophical/Cultural
-
- Before going
 - ***Whilst there***



Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations

1. The Problem of Distance

What kinds of problems, or obstacles, does doing fieldwork away from home present?

- Practical/Logistical
 - Conceptual/Methodological
 - Philosophical/Cultural
-
- Before going
 - Whilst there
 - ***On return***

Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations

2. The Problem of Difficulty



What kinds of problems, or obstacles, does doing fieldwork in difficult terrain present?

- Practical/Logistical
- Conceptual/Methodological
- Philosophical/Cultural
- Before going
- Whilst there
- On return

Doing Fieldwork in Distant or Difficult Locations

2. The Problem of Difficulty



What kinds of problems, or obstacles, does doing fieldwork in difficult terrain present?

- Practical/Logistical - Conceptual/Methodological - Philosophical/Cultural
- Before going – Whilst there – On return

-What can we do to resolve these difficulties and do successful fieldwork?

Suggested Reading

Anderson, B.G. (1990) *First Fieldwork: The Misadventures of an Anthropologist*, Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Barrett, C.B. and Cason, J.W. (2010) *Overseas Fieldwork: A Practical Guide* (2nd Edition), London: Routledge.

Bestor, T.C., Steinhoff, P.G. and Bestor, V.L. (eds) (2003) *Doing Fieldwork in Japan*, Honolulu: Hawaii University Press.

Heimer, M. and Thogersen, S. (eds) (2005) *Doing Fieldwork in China*, Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

Lee, R.M. (1995) *Dangerous Fieldwork*, London: Sage.

Hendry, J. (1999) *An Anthropologist in Japan: Glimpses of Life in the Field*, London: Routledge.

Scheyvens, R. and Storey, D. (eds) (2003) *Development Fieldwork: A Practical Guide*, London: Sage.