Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPTool

Title: Imagining Agrarian Alternatives: Sustainable Agriculture and Indigenous Alterity in Cooperatives in India

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Funder: Digital Curation Centre (dcc.ac.uk)

Template: Digital Curation Centre

Project abstract:

Global ecological and economic crises have propelled the call for alternative forms of agriculture. This is especially true in India today where experts worldwide have diagnosed India with an agrarian crisis. In India as elsewhere, policy makers, academics, and NGO leaders have proposed cooperatives and sustainable agriculture as critical components to resolving crisis. Yet, the meaning of these proposed solutions remains unfixed, sitting comfortably in an ideologically wide array of radical and mainstream institutions. This project explores the practices and imaginaries that inform cooperative and sustainable agriculture movements in India. In particular, it focuses on "indigenous alterity" as a significant component of these visions. Over a 15 month period, I will conduct ethnographic fieldwork within Adivasi cooperatives working in sustainable agriculture as well as the academic, NGO, and governmental networks in which they cooperatives are embedded. I will investigate the agrarian imaginaries of variously situated actors as well as the role these actors see for cooperatives and sustainable agriculture in India's agrarian future, analyzing the histories, identities, and aspirations that constitute these visions and projects. I will furthermore interrogate the practices of labor, kinship, and sociality are produced within cooperative and sustainable agriculture networks and programs, and the ways these everyday practices change in circulation and travel. I intend to analyze the pliability of meanings of the "cooperative" and "sustainable agriculture," as well as their associated practices, across projects seeking to create different futures.

Start date: 09-01-2021

End date: 08-31-2022

Last modified: 04-20-2023

Copyright information:

Imagining Agrarian Alternatives: Sustainable Agriculture and Indigenous Alterity in Cooperatives in India

This project will generate four types of data: 1) digital recordings and transcriptions of both semi-structured interviews and biographical sketches of cooperative members and family of the cooperative members, as well as semi-structured interviews of individuals in the cooperative members' community, day laborers within the cooperative, affiliated NGO workers, NGO leaders, government officials, and academics; 2) notes from these interviews (written and later typed); 3) photographs and scans of promotional material from the two cooperatives in my study and their affiliated NGOs, as well as from the conferences I attend, including flyers and pamphlets; 4) extensive amount of fieldnotes from participant observation of my informants within my two cooperative field sites and within conferences that I attend (handwritten and then subsequently typed). Data types 1, 2, and 4 are confidential while type 3 is non confidential.

During my fieldwork, each day I will use jotting techniques to note down key events, moments, and utterances. At the end of the day, I will use these jottings to create a daily memo that elaborates in detail on the events of the day and begin a preliminary analysis of their significance. These memos will all be typed on a password protected computer using Microsoft OneNote, which will allow for careful organization into separate virtual notebooks organized by site location and sections within each notebook organized by date. I will also use OneNote's many tools to highlight and mark themes. Every few weeks I will create additional memos in OneNote to help further consider emerging themes. I will begin my semi-structured interviews after at least two months of participant observation in my field site in Chhattisgarh, and after I have returned for my second visit to my Madhya Pradesh field site. This will allow time to formulate my interview questions and gain a basic competence in the metalinguistic techniques with these communities. I will transcribe my interviews within a few days of conducting them, and begin a preliminary narrative analysis through a similar highlighting process as my fieldnotes. I will promptly transfer to my computer all digitized promotional material that I gather, and appropriately categorize and catalogue this material using OneNote as well. At the end of my fieldwork, I will use NVivo12 to code my interviews and promotional material from my field sites. I will also closely read my notes, memos, and other documents to incorporate this material into my analysis.

I will include a "Read Me" document, which I will store on Box. This will act as a key for my anonymized data, as well as describe the the organization of my OneNote notebook.

Interviewees will be informed through an oral and written consent process that that all data will be de-identified, including the use of pseudonyms, unless requested by the informant otherwise. Consent will be requested for recording interviews, and if informants decline consent on this matter, I will hand write notes. At the end of each interview, I will ask all informants if there is any information shared with me that they do not wish to be part of this study. I will not include this information in my analysis.

In the event my project requires the use of copyrighted material, I will appropriately cite the material and obtain permission to use the content if needed.

All OneNote and transcription documents will be stored on a password-protected computer. OneNote be synced to Stanford's OneDrive, which has 5TB of cloud storage, sufficient for the purposes of my study. All audio recordings will be promptly transferred to my password-protected computer and then deleted from the recorder. I will store all audio recordings and transcription documents to Box, a cloud storage service that Stanford provides for students with infinite storage capacity. I will connect to all cloud storage using the Stanford VPN. I will also have a physical external hard drive to back-up all material, which, along with my notebook, will be kept in a secure location in my

living quarters.

(see above)

NA

NA

The primary use of this data will be for a doctoral dissertation in the Department of Anthropology at Stanford University. This data may also provide the basis for conference papers, journal articles, as well as other publications more accessible to the cooperatives and NGOs in my study.

NA

I will be responsible for this data management plan, which will be reviewed by my advisor.

All necessary applications and digital storage services are available freely through Stanford.