National Centre for Research Methods

Changing Social Research Practices in the Context of Covid-19: Rapid Evidence Review

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Executive summary

The Rapid Evidence Review synthesises evidence available in academic publications from 2020 with the aim of charting how social research methods have been successfully adapted for, or designed for use within, the pandemic conditions of Covid-19. Searching six databases identified a potential 896 papers of interest, of which 95 met the inclusion criteria. These span more than 30 countries and discuss various methods, particularly surveys and rapid surveys, interviews, group interviews and focus groups, autoethnographic and ethnographic methods, and expressive and participatory methods. Key methods learning from 64 publications were synthesised to address the main aim. While some (largely expressive and autoethnographic) methods apparently thrived or were well-suited to the social conditions of widespread social anxiety, lockdowns and travel bans, others (e.g. surveys, ethnographies) had to be swiftly and sometimes radically adapted. Data on the efficacy of changes to methods practices were limited at this early stage in publishing from the pandemic era. Some of the adaptations to survey work (e.g. using targeted advertising and options for postal modes to achieve balanced survey samples and stable recruitment numbers) were successful, while isolating mode effects from other variables is largely still a work in progress. Moving interview and focus groups online were largely found to generate rich data, and getting support from community leaders/communities was found to be critical for continuing community-based participatory research. The research community has been resilient in ensuring that their research continues, and that it remains valid, relevant and ethical in the face of extreme challenges and huge social change. The review identifies training needs in specific methods, advanced contingency planning and responsive ethical and epistemic decision-making. This report is intended for researchers at all career stages, research funders and supporting infrastructures.

The full report from the wider project is available from
http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/4397/

Introduction

The Covid-19 disease became a global pandemic in the first months of 2020. The health risks and public health mandates to contain the virus changed everyday life and national economies worldwide. Social research saw widespread disruption as the community suspended many projects. The National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) responded with a new research project: *Changing Research Practices: Undertaking social research in the context of Covid-19* (August 2020-February 2021). The project encompassed the Rapid Evidence Review reported here.

Review aim

The aim of the review has been to synthesise the academic evidence available to the research community on how social research methods have been successfully adapted for, or designed to be utilised within, the pandemic conditions of Covid-19.

Background context

The ESRC provided the impetus for exploring how researchers are managing during Covid-19 restrictions, primarily focusing on physical/social distancing, and how this is changing research practices. The NCRM Executive was involved in an initial review of the key social research methods being affected and the practices undergoing change. The research team made an initial review of social media and grey literature to refine their focus. User involvement in the rapid review process was maintained throughout by linking the review to the programme of knowledge exchange workshops in the wider project. The proposed programme of work was agreed with the funding body.

Question development and refinement

The review question, shaped by early dialogue with the funders and NCRM Executive was delineated as: ***How have social research methods been successfully adapted or designed for use within pandemic conditions?***

Methods

The Knowledge to Action Rapid Evidence Review process of Kanguara et al (2012) streamlined review process was adapted for this research. This involved searching, identifying and selecting articles, and analysing the chosen publications. The information gleaned was synthesised using descriptive summary with recommendations for practice based on examples and evidence. In keeping with other Rapid Evidence Reviews, this review assessed 'what is already known about a policy or practice issue, by using systematic review methods to search and critically appraise existing research' (Grant & Booth, 2009, p.94). The completeness of the process was determined by the time constraints, thus grey literature was excluded and scrutinised in a separate process. Similarly, there was rigour and transparency in that the search strategy and sources are explicit and identification of relevant material was criterion-based. There were, though, concessions to the depth and breadth of a usual systematic review process (see Butler et al., 2005) which meant extracting only key variables in terms of the most practically applicable headline messages and simplifying the quality appraisal.

Identifying publications

The identification strategy involved searching for articles in the following databases:

- Scopus
- Web of science
- PsycINFO main (EBSCO folder)
- ERIC (ProQuest folder)
- Social Science Premium Collection (ProQuest folder) (criminology, education, international bibliography of the social sciences, linguistics, politics, and sociology collections plus social science database)

Search terms used for searching the bibliographic databases included the following sets in combination:

Terms to indicate that the paper is about applying, developing or adapting research methods i.e.:

> ("research method*" OR methodology* OR qualitative OR quantitative OR fieldwork OR survey* OR interview* OR "focus group*" OR observation* OR *ethnog*)
>
> AND

Terms to indicate that the methods were applied, developed or adapted to the social conditions and public health mandates accompanying Covid-19 (including maintaining physical distance; necessity to cover faces, restrictions on touch and access to buildings) i.e.:

> (Covid* OR coronavirus OR pandemic OR lockdown OR "social distan*" OR "face cover*" OR face mask*)

The key terms were developed in collaboration with University of Southampton specialist librarians who advised on the use of indexing languages for specific databases.

The parameters of the searches were set to search titles and keywords only for the first methods-related string (because the term "method*" is mentioned in most abstracts) and titles, keywords and abstracts for the second search string. Additionally, the searches were set to select only papers published in the English language, during the period 1 January 2020-31 December 2020. During the filtering process papers published in journals with a Social Science or methodological orientation provided a focus for finding the most relevant papers.

The search was conducted during August and September 2020, with an update in December 2020-January 2021 to identify additional papers published towards the end of 2020. The database search was supplemented with forward and backward citation analysis of selected papers within these databases and via narrated resources identified through Twitter, Google searching "social research methods for the pandemic" and using Google Scholar. Additional hand-searching of particular methodology journals was conducted, i.e. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology, Qualitative Research, Qualitative Inquiry, International Journal of Qualitative Methods, Journal of Mixed Methods Research, Sociological Methods and Research, Methodology, and Survey Research Methods*.

Screening and selection of studies

Studies were identified that met **ALL** of the following criteria:

Scope
  i.   Focuses on social research methods (used by researchers in any discipline)
  ii. Provides description and/or rationale for the fit of the research methods that have been (or were in train to be) applied, developed or adapted to the social conditions and public health mandates accompanying Covid-19

Paper Type

iii. Journal article report or discussion of individual empirical studies or synthesis/review of these; or peer-reviewed published conference proceedings (other conference papers will be covered in the review of the grey literature)

iv. Written in English

Timespan

v. Published 1 January 2020- 31 December 2020.

Studies were **excluded** if they met **ONE** of the following exclusion criteria:

Scope

i. DOES NOT focus on social research methods (Exclude 1)

ii. DOES NOT provide description and/or rationale for the fit of the research methods for the social conditions and public health mandates accompanying Covid-19 (Exclude 2)

Paper type

iii. NOT a Journal article report or discussion of individual empirical studies or synthesis/review of these or peer-reviewed published conference proceedings (Exclude 3)

iv. NOT written in English (Exclude 4)

Timespan

v. NOT published 1 January 2020- 31 December 2020 (Exclude 5)

Screening of studies identified from databases using the search strategy was conducted in four steps: three stages proceeding through a series of graduated filters followed by a fourth selection of the most relevant studies for the synthesis (see Table 1).

Stage		Output
i.	Identifying all studies with potential to meet the inclusion criteria	Database A – all studies retrieved
ii.	Scrutinising the titles (and where necessary also the abstracts); applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria to papers in Database A. This primarily enabled exclusion of papers (that were clearly not about the research methods in pandemic conditions). Screening was applied to a wide and as comprehensive a range of papers as possible in the time using this search strategy.	Database B – all studies that appeared to meet the inclusion criteria
iii.	Scrutinising full papers for all studies in Database C; applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria	Database C – all studies that met the inclusion criteria
iv.	Selection of papers that would be included in the narrative synthesis according to their potential to answer the research question	Database D – studies for inclusion in narrative synthesis

Table 1. Study screening and filtering stages

One researcher (Coverdale) conducted the bulk of the search with a sample of the databases also searched by a second researcher (Nind) to provide a point of comparison and double check the application of the search strategy and inclusion/exclusion criteria. The main 'grey area' issue to resolve was whether to include papers that discussed methods suitable for pandemic conditions but did not address applying them in a pandemic context study – these papers were filtered out as papers of use in resource development but not contributing to the evidence base on methods. Further discussion was needed on papers that indicated selecting a

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particular method for a study in Covid-19 conditions, but provided little or no detail. These papers were included in the mapping of evidence about methods, but not subjected to an in-depth read as additional rationale/evidence would not be gleaned. In contrast, papers that gave a rationale for the method choice related to Covid-19, that described implementation of the methods during the pandemic, or that reflected or reported on their effectiveness were flagged for in-depth reading. Both researchers were involved in the decision-making on any grey area papers.

A series of three rapid response books on 'Researching in the Age of COVID-19' (Kara & Khoo, 2020a; 2020b; 2020c) were published in 2020 and many of the chapters were added to the database of finds because of their pertinence. A search for further book chapters was conducted but returns did not meet the inclusion criteria.

Narrative synthesis of included studies

Keywording represented a preparation stage ahead of the narrative synthesis of the included studies. It allowed the building of a picture of the published literature focusing on: the kinds of research conducted; where; in which conditions; and utilising or adapting which types of research methods. It also allowed identification of studies to include in the narrative synthesis. This process did not attempt to assess the quality of the studies at this stage. Keywording was conducted iteratively with the two researchers each taking a tranche of papers in turn and highlighting papers that required discussion or issues to resolve. There was also a deliberate overlap of 25 per cent of papers to check for reliability and consensus.

The keywording strategy was designed to assign generic and review-specific keywords as follows:

Generic:

- Paper reference details tied to a paper ID number
- Source (indicating databases/handsearching)
- Country
- Discipline
- Participant groups
- Study type

Review-specific:
- Research method
- Constraining conditions
- Key contribution (free text)
- Recommendation

In the fourth filtering stage, a smaller selection of Database C papers were selected for inclusion in the narrative synthesis based on their potential to answer the research question. These papers became Database D. Database D papers were appraised for a) relevance – appropriateness for answering the research question, and b) quality.

As this review was concerned with the way in which methods were used and adapted to generate data in pandemic conditions (argument-based), relative quality values were not ascribed to studies based upon checklists and quality was not used as a reason to exclude papers. Ordinarily, the inclusion of low-quality studies when synthesising data can give rise to inaccurate conclusions, hence only papers meeting methodological minimum adequacy standards are included. However, in the absence of agreed standards for quality appraisal of normative literature for systematic reviews, an *all things considered* conclusion of low/medium/high quality was reached (with a recorded audit trail, Popay et al. 2006) in which the quality appraisal took into account:

- the clarity of focus of the paper
- attention to the methodological literature
- attention to theory
- depth of rationale for the method/adaptation of method
- consideration of ethical challenges
- evidence of reflexivity
- technical merit (clear and appropriate description)
- internal coherence (fit of method to objective, paradigm and challenge)
- evidence of testing the method to produce viable findings
- clarity of the basis for the conclusions
- the authors' own evaluation of the strengths and limitations.

This allowed the reviewers to consider the extent to which the paper was valid for its own purpose and for the purpose of the systematic review (see Garside, 2014).

Map 1 tabulated the paper characteristics: *Reference, source, country, discipline, participant group, study type, research method, constraining conditions, key contribution and recommendation.*

Map 2 recorded: *Reference, aim pertaining to methods development, context, all things considered quality, core findings, and authors' conclusions.*

Additionally, papers were all given a recommendation from the following:

- **Recommendation 1a – (meets inclusion criteria and) merits an in-depth read** as there is detailed material about the rationale for the method being a good fit for Covid-19 social conditions or reflection on or evidence about those methods
- **Recommendation 1b – (meets inclusion criteria) but useful only for descriptive map** as states connection between the method and Covid-19 social conditions but does not go into detail or report or reflect on the fit or effectiveness
- **Recommendation 2 – (does not meet inclusion criteria but) reserve as potential for further reading** as the paper discusses potentially useful methods for Covid-19 social conditions and could be useful for creation of project resources
- **Recommendation 3 – (does not meet inclusion criteria but) store for use as background** as paper provides useful contextual material about Covid-19 social conditions

Narrative synthesis was developed using the above data extraction process to provide organisational structure. The quality appraisal was used to judge weight given to each paper's contribution. Reading of the full text papers to retain context was necessary to interpret each paper's contribution to answering the systematic review research question. Common threads, headline messages and practical pointers were identified and synthesised in the narrative.

Figure 1 shows the flow of the process and Table 2 shows the numbers involved in the stages.

Database A*	
Web of Science Core Collection	486
Scopus	395
PsycINFO	15
ERIC	0
Social Science Premium Collection (ProQuest)	26
Database A Total	922
Database B	
Hand sifted papers from Database A	81
Book chapters from Kara & Khoo (2020)	33
Database B Total	114
Database C	
Recommendation 1a	64
Recommendation 1b	31
Total papers/chapters mapped	95
Recommendation 2	12
Recommendation 3	7
Database D	
Total papers/chapters included in the synthesis	64

Table 2: Numbers of papers at each stage of the process

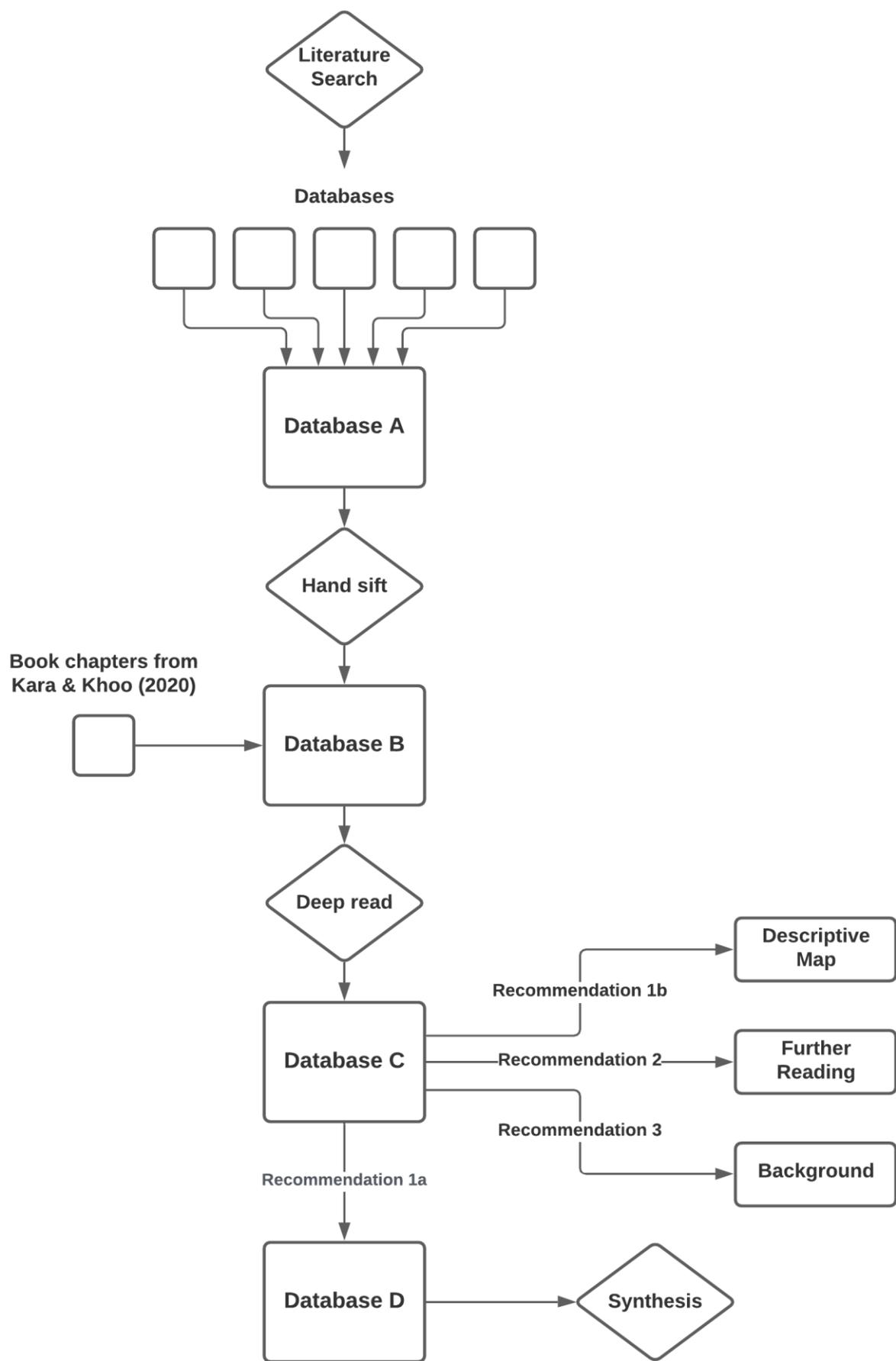*Totals include duplications that were identified during hand sifting

Figure 1: Flowchart to show the methods process

Findings

The findings are structured beginning with descriptive mapping and moving to synthesis.

Mapping the selected articles

Researchers were reporting in the English language, on methods use and adaptation:

- in studies in the USA (17), UK (16), and Australia (6), Austria, Bangladesh (2), Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil (6), Canada (5), China (2), Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark (3), Germany (8), India (4), Iran, Ireland, Kashmir, Mongolia, New Zealand (5), Nigeria, Pakistan (2), Portugal (4), Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore (3), Slovenia, Spain (4), Switzerland (3) (as well as 'Europe' and '26 countries');
- in studies in social science disciplines (sociology, social policy, social work, education, psychology, management), plus public health, sexual health, medical studies, medical education, data science and library and information science;
- in publications that spanned empirical papers, methodological papers/protocols, commentary papers, theoretical/conceptual papers, critical reviews, reflective essays, and substantive editorials;
- in studies with diverse participants including family groups, academics (the self), activists, mobile phone users, farmers, healthcare providers and workers, careworkers, social workers, sex workers, IT professionals, migrants, refugees, adults and children involved in education, prison populations, people of different generations and people experiencing ill-health, bereavement, low income or unemployment;
- in relation to surveys (21) and rapid survey, interviews, groups interviews and focus groups (21), autoethnographic (17) and ethnographic methods (7), expressive and participatory methods (10) (Photovoice, self-report, podcasting, narrative), datathon, secondary data analysis, digital, and rapid appraisal and rapid evidence review;
- for the physical (social) distancing conditions of Covid-19 public health mandates, under time pressure and in the context of travel restrictions/bans, quarantine periods and lockdowns with restricted rights to movement/public assembly, closure of schools, non-essential businesses and hospitality venues, plus prevalent psychological distress and anxiety.

To provide a descriptive overview of the findings, the research question (***How have social research methods been successfully adapted or designed for use within pandemic conditions?***) was de-constructed to report:

a) What methods have been employed or adapted?
b) What evidence is there of their success?
c) What pandemic conditions were driving the changes?

What methods have been employed or adapted?

Primarily there are published papers/chapters discussing:

- Adaptation of surveys, including recruitment methods and mode changes from in-person interview mode to postal mode, computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) mode, online mode and mixed modes
- Employment of rapid surveys
- Introduction of pandemic-specific supplementary surveys and use of sub-samples to mitigate threats to validity
- Adaptation of qualitative individual or group interviews, including shift from in-person interviews to telephone or online interviews
- Employment of ethnographic, diary and expressive methods
- Adaptation to cultural probe methods
- Utilising the support of communities and community leaders in participatory research

What evidence is there of their success?

Some of the adaptations/methods are reported to be successful, most notably:

- Using targeted Facebook advertising to achieve balanced survey samples
- Offering postal as well as online modes for including elderly people in surveys
- Providing a telephone option in surveys to achieve good response rates, especially with 3-4 repeat attempts
- The move from in-person interviews to online or telephone individual interviews
- The use of autoethnographic, diary and expressive methods
- Getting support from community leaders/communities in participatory research

For some of the methods there are concerns about efficacy, most notably:

- Mitigating – and understanding – mode effects in adaptations to surveys
- Rapid surveys and rapid qualitative where there are distortions from sampling or recruitment issues and speed of analysis
- Shifting from in-person interviews to online group interviews is reported in one study as partially successful but with some issues pertaining to the commitment required and the need for local/professional support

There is as yet a lack of evidence about the impact of survey mode changes on data quality rather than recruitment numbers and sample stability, or whether the strategy of maintaining the same researcher-participant relationship across change of mode is effective mitigation. Nor is there evidence about the efficacy of shifting from in-person to postal cultural probes.

What pandemic conditions were driving the methods/changes in methods?

The pandemic condition that is most reported in the literature as driving adaptation to methods is the need for 'social' (actually physical) distancing to keep people safe. Many of the survey papers are transparent about the points at which changes had to the made – with both the dates and the public health mandates logged (e.g. Prommegger et al., 2020). National variations in responses to Covid-19 were particularly problematic for cross-national studies. In addition to the widespread prohibition of in person contact, the literature shows how particular studies and methods have been impacted by closure of sites for research (e.g. schools); forced cancellation of events; interruptions to postal services; and travel restrictions or travel bans.

Social and emotional dimensions include the considerable time pressures experienced by some researchers and participants; their experiences of stress and anxiety; changing priorities, daily routines, workplaces and living conditions within the dynamic context. Challenges were exacerbated by inequalities in digital connectivity. Additionally, the pandemic was not a social context in isolation and some of attraction of autoethnographic or expressive research was driven by the needs to make sense of not just the pandemic but the pandemic in interaction with racism and the Black Lives Matter protests.

Synthesis

Overall, the changed methodological practice documented shows that changing or specifically adopted research practices for Covid-19 conditions span survey, autho/ethnographic, interview, cultural probe and participatory methods. Moreover, the literature addresses challenges related to recruiting participants, avoiding distorted samples, building and maintaining research relationships without in person contact, getting/updating ethics approval amid so much uncertainty, and data analysis when the pandemic has 'modified both research fields and methodological strategies' (de Barros et al., 2020, p.237).

The findings provide evidence in support of the research community working around the pandemic conditions, often avoiding having to radically change the nature or direction of that research (de Barros et al., 2020) although one anthropologist made the radical shift to explore the use of online surveys (Long, 2020). The workarounds extend beyond the obvious adjustments from in-person to online working. The research literature raises awareness about other challenges and potential solutions. These can be synthesised in three broad categories: Making research happen, making research ethical, and making research valid.

Making research happen
Survey research has been seriously impacted by Covid-19 with a special issue of the journal Survey Research Methods dedicated to reporting responses among survey researchers contributing to strong coverage of the issues. To make survey research happen during the pandemic researchers have:

  i. Designed or re-designed surveys to address urgent concerns related to the effect of Covid-19 on: the labour market (Sakshuag et al., 2020), education (Huber & Helm, 2020), farming and food security (Henze, Paganini and Stöber, 2020). These include new specific surveys (Sakshuag et al., 2020), rapid surveys (Huber & Helm, 2020) and survey modules (Hafner-Fink & Uhan, 2020; Will, Becker & Weigand, 2020).
  i. Utilised mixed methods designs with, for example, in-depth telephone interviews (with vulnerable people and community leaders) preceding online surveys of the general population (Moraes Silva & Mont'Alverne, 2020).
  ii. Changed their survey modes. In-person mode has been switched to become online (Leemann et al., 2020), or web first then telephone (Burton, Lynn, & Benzeval, 2020), or online with telephone option (Verma & Bizas, 2020), or telephone with mitigation plans (Gummer et al., 2020), or self-administered mixed mode. Questions for online modes have had to be modified or cut (Sastry, McGonagle & Fomby, 2020) and content-related adjustments made for switches to telephone (CATI) modes (Will et al., 2020) (e.g. changing a physical/visual slider to a verbally communicated numerical scale (0-10). Establishing some form of contact with the respondents before CATI surveys has been

used, together with repeat attempts to call, to increase response rates (Narasimhan et al., 2020). Offering online mode with postal options has been used effectively by Hafner-Fink and Uhan (2020) for including elderly participants.

In terms of efficacy, it is often too early to tell the impact of the mode changes beyond responses rates which have largely been good and prevented a hiatus in longitudinal work (Burton et al., 2020) and Leemann et al. (2020) reporting marginal differences in survey responses across interview modes.

In qualitative studies, researchers have been engaged in mode changes similarly, moving from in-person to online individual interview (Cuevas-Parra, 2020; Ellis & Rawicki, 2020; Lawrence, 2020; Ndhlovu, 2020; O'Sullivan et al., 2020; Verma & Bizas, 2020), group interviews (Dodds & Hess, 2020; Verma & Bizas, 2020), focus groups (Jones et al., 2020; Chávez, Castro-Reyes & Echeverry, 2020), discussion forums (Monchuk et al., 2020) and community researcher meetings (Gratton, Fox & Elder, 2020) or, less often, interviews conducted by telephone (Jones et al., 2020; Gross, 2020; O'Sullivan et al., 2020; Snow, 2020). Interviews incorporating cultural probes have been adapted by participants receiving cultural probe resources by post (Couceiro, 2020) and photovoice techniques have been incorporated into online (group) interviews (Liegghio & Caragata, 2020; Valdez & Gubrium, 2020). Online interviews have needed to take into account specific cultural context with, for example, many Western online platforms being banned in China and with online monitoring by the Chinese state (Lawrence, 2020).

In terms of efficacy, online and telephone interviews have been found to be creative and sustaining (Gratton et al., 2020), and despite some limitations generate rich and deep data on experiences and perceptions (Cuevas-Parra, 2020). Online interviews have been technically challenging for an older interviewee (Ellis & Rawicki, 2020) but effective with professional (Ndlovu, 2020). One study of an online group interview showed mixed results depending on how families used the technology (Dodds & Hess, 2020). Some researchers have sought out alternative creative/participatory methods when the interviews were less effective at keeping connections thriving (Gratton et al., 2020). Telephone interviews have been found to change, but not weaken, research relationships (Snow, 2020).

For some researchers, making research happen during Covid-19 has been about adapting the pace of the research (Henze et al., 2020; Huber & Helm, 2020), sometimes imposing a pause with time reflection (Favilla & Pita, 2020; Gross, 2020), other times necessitating hasty decision-making combined with critical reflection (Braun et al., 2020). Speed has been important to informing policy decisions (Vindrola-Padros et al., 2020) and rapid evaluation and appraisal methods (REAM) have included: rapid ethnographic assessments (REAs), rapid assessment procedures (RAPs), rapid assessment response and evaluation (RARE), rapid qualitative inquiry (RQI), and rapid ethnographies (Vindrola-Padros et al., 2020) as well as rapid mobile phone survey using specially designed open-access tools (Henze et al., 2020).

Often, the making research happen challenge during the pandemic has been about finding effective ways to capture data on the everyday realities. In this arena, autoethnographic methods have been strongly in evidence. As with the available data on survey methods, evidence of use and suitability of autoethnographic methods has been supported by one major research initiative (the *Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking* collaborative autoethnographic

project which started as a call for expressions of interest for a special issue of the journal *Qualitative Inquiry* (Markham, Harris & Luka, 2020). Autoethnographic writing and photo-assisted ethnography has offered a route to sense-making in the pandemic (Chemi, 2020; Lee, 2020; Sakar, 2020; Luka, 2020; Markham et al., 2020), alongside other multimodal and performative autoethnography (Chemi, 2020; Davis, 2020; De Garmo, 2020; Markham et al, 2020; Zheng, 2020), critical (Harris & Holman Jones, 2020) and collaborative autoethnography (Markham et al., 2020; Roy & Uekusa, 2020). Similarly, ethnographic diaries by children (Gwenzi et al., 2020), digital storytelling and diary writing by young people (Jones et al., 2020), and other expressive and creative methods have been found to suit the need for people to individually and collectively engage in sense-making. Self-recording methods with mobile probes have supported generation of data, sometimes at scale (Szafir Goldstein et al., 2020). Some ethnographies and blended ethnographies have morphed into digital ethnographies (Gross, 2020).

In terms of efficacy, these methods have required little adjustment for Covid-19 conditions, instead allowing participants to use whatever modes they have available to them to communicate their embodied experience; to share photos, recordings, and online chat participants have only needed their phones (Zheng, 2020).

Survey researchers too have sought data on the effects of Covid-19 and lockdown (Sastry et al., 2020), sometimes adding a subsample of cases about the effects of Covid and lockdown (Sastry et al., 2020), new surveys of health and living situations during Covid (Scherpenzeel et al., 2020), and new modules on life and attitudes in the pandemic (Hafner-Fink & Uhan, 2020).

Making research valid and trustworthy
The drive that has come with the pandemic to collect data fast (Huber & Helm, 2020; Sakshuag et al., 2020) means that researchers have needed to weigh the speed advantages of rapid surveys against representativeness issues with the sample (Huber & Helm, 2020). Rapid surveys with ad hoc samples can only be a starting point for further exploratory and confirmatory research (Huber & Helm, 2020). More widely, survey researchers have had to work to address potential distorting of the representativeness of their samples by the effects of the pandemic and the consequent need for different recruitment strategies and mode changes. Connelly and Gayle (2020) warn against surveys using the internet and social media with non-probability samples, instead favouring adding survey components to existing infrastructural survey data resources such as Understanding Society, UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), British Birth Cohort Studies and English Longitudinal Study of Aging (ELSA). Such large-scale studies have provided valuable, reliable secondary data alternatives when primary data collection could not proceed as planned (Chawla, 2020). For new surveys, recruitment has been challenging and has needed additional strategies such as targeted Facebook advertising to rebalance population characteristics (Ali et al., 2020).

In being alert to the potential distorting of their findings due to the effects of changes in mode, survey researchers have acted to assess the risks, develop contingency plans and conduct experiments to assess mode effects (Sakshuag et al., 2020), gather data on mode experiences (Leemann et al., 2020), and distinguish mode effects from pandemic effects (Will et al., 2020). In seeking a sample that reflects the structure of the wider population, Hafner-Fink and Uhan (2020) added a postal questionnaire as they moved to online mode. This was effective in not

excluding elderly respondents and, as such, it was only education characteristics that were unrepresentative (by being slightly higher). In the UK longitudinal panel survey, Understanding Society, they found people were responding online who would not normally have done so, and that generally response rates did not suffer (Burton et al., 2020). Will et al. (2020) deployed the same interviewers in telephone (CATI) modes who had built up relationships with participants in person to help mitigate the mode change effects on response rates.

Survey researchers have also been concerned with questions of distortion of data and relevance in their questioning following the dramatic changes in the wake of the pandemic. Fell et al. (2020, p.1) sum this up: 'how can we ensure that conclusions drawn from data collected during the pandemic are valid, representative, generalisable to a post-pandemic world, and comparable to the pre-pandemic one?' Their principles for mitigating problems with validity 'involve giving consideration to possible impacts of the pandemic and associated response measures on findings; adjusting research design and data collection to reflect this; and reporting extra contextual detail' (p.1). This attention to the detail of where, when and for how long pandemic-related policies have been in force is evident across the survey literature synthesised, especially when cross-national comparisons are sought. Prommegger et al. (2020) show how even the baseline set of relationships in a conceptual model could be disrupted by Covid-19. Some researchers include (or advocate including) data on compliance with public health mandates alongside changing employment and finance situation and behaviour change variables. Fell et al. (2020, pp.3-4) point out that 'if the pandemic affects both the independent and dependent variables of interest, it can induce a spurious correlation', making it necessary to anticipate the potential impact of the pandemic on variables of interest, to test the effects and to report best estimates of actual impact.

Survey researchers have also responded to the challenges by providing guidance on how to answer given the huge changes (such as 'we know that life has changed a lot for everyone in the country. When you are answering the survey, we would like you to answer according to your circumstances now, even if these are not normal' (Burton et al., 2020, p.237). Some surveys have asked that responses to questions are situated in pre-Covid perspective (Will et al., 2020), or added new questions for new times (Burton et al., 2020). Generally, there has been a concern with maintaining or building in longitudinal elements for before and after Covid-19 comparison where feasible (Fell et al., 2020; Scherpenzeel et al., 2020). Some survey work has been solution-focused and the relevance has come from the participatory framework as with the mutual knowledge exchange between farmers in southern Africa and Indonesia (Henze et al,, 2020) and the repurposed UK Save the Children survey to evaluate emergency response to the pandemic (Verma & Bizas, 2020)

In qualitative research involving interviews, changes in mode away from in-person interviewing have mainly impacted on the interview context and relationship, with impacts on the quality of the data hard to evaluate. Being able to maintain research relationships at a distance has been a consideration and challenge for recruitment and retention and the building of trust (O'Sullivan et al., 2020). The nature of interview samples in qualitative studies have changed as more flexible options for when interviews can happen and travel barriers removed sometimes permitting wider social and geographical involvement (e.g. Valdez & Gubrium, 2020). Occasionally, researchers have been concerned with the reliability of data when a study has begun with face-to-face semi-structured interviews and had to move to remote ones (Chatha &

Bretz, 2020) or with internal validity as when the oral history interviews for the UK NHS at 70 study moved to telephone mode part way through (Snow, 2020). More often they have been concerned with data richness (e.g. Dodds & Hess, 2020; Ellis & Rawicki, 2020; Ndhlovu, 2020; Snow, 2020), the trustworthiness of qualitative research being related to the quality of the insights gained and whether they are 'worth paying attention to' (Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

Ethnographic, autoethnographic and other expressive methods have provided authentic, multimodal (Sakar, 2020; Zheng, 2020) insights into identity (Chemi, 2020; Lipscomb & Ashley, 2020) and relationships (DeGarmo, 2020; Gwenzi et al, 2020; Harris & Holman Jones, 2020; Zheng, 2020;) and life in the Covid-19 context (Burton et al., 2020; Lee, 2020; Luka, 2020; Markham et al., 2020; Sakar, 2020; Shelton, 2020). This often had catalytic validity (Lather, 1986), providing a re-orienting, energising or transformative function (Clarke & Watson, 2020; Gwenzi et al, 2020; Harris & Holman Jones, 2020; Markham et al., 2020; Zheng, 2020;).

In summary, the synthesis indicates that the risk of errant conclusions in surveys in pandemic times needs to be addressed through experiments to understand the risks, mitigation measures, and transparency. The risk of mode changes in interview studies generating untrustworthy qualitative data has not been substantial.

Making research ethical

Rethinking research plans during the pandemic is an 'ethical imperative' argue Kara & Khoo (2020c). The continuation of social research in 2020 has required engagement with particular ethical challenges. The 'onlineification of everything' (Braun, R. et al., 2020), for example, is not suited to some research areas such as eating disorders research (Weissman, Klump & Rose, 2020) or research with homeless populations (Goldstein et al., 2020). In pursuit of making their research ethical, researchers have been paying careful attention to the risks of magnifying existing societal divisions, inequities and exclusions, particularly exclusion from research of marginalised groups disproportionately affected by Covid such as older people (Ellis & Rawicki, 2020), disabled people (Partlow, 2020) and people without homes (Goldstein et al., 2020). In practical terms there is evidence of alternative methods being found when internet connectivity was an issue - disposable cameras for people living on the streets (Goldstein et al., 2020), telephone rather than online surveys (Verma & Bizas, 2020) - plus overcoming access issues for disabled participants (Partlow, 2020) and technical issues for older ones (Ellis & Rawicki, 2020). This is in keeping with the ethical drive to find ways to continue with research when the participant group, like lone mothers living with their children in deprived conditions (Liegghio & Caragata, 2020), and children more generally (Cuevas-Parra, 2020; Gwenzi et al., 2020), are affected and not heard by those with more power and resources. Similarly, continuing the oral history interviews with NHS patients, frontline workers and policy-makers was seen as a moral responsibility (Snow, 2020).

The other side to the ethical risks of not continuing research is the ethical risks of over-burdening participants already badly affected by the pandemic. Researchers held back from questioning survey respondents about mental health issues, unless this was intended anyway, and were extra sensitive to the potential impacts of collecting data on topics that could be more upsetting in pandemic times than would ordinarily be the case (Fell et al., 2020). If addressing sensitive topics, researchers were aware they needed to provide research participants with reflective space to process their anxieties and struggles and to continually adapt to the mood

and to circumstances/events as they unfolded, thereby building in a strong ethic of care (Markham et al., 2020).

Finally, social researchers have sought to do good through their research in the pandemic, such as through providing those reflective spaces (Markham et al, 2020) and opportunities for emotional expression (Braun, Clarke & Moller, 2020; Clarke & Watson, 2020; Snow, 2020) or through solution-focused participatory research design (Henze et al,, 2020). Many have appreciated that social research can and should contribute unique insight into the effects of the pandemic (Pacheco & Zaimağaoğlu, 2020).

Conclusions, implications and recommendations

At the start of the pandemic social research was thrown into disarray and there were no experts in what the new context meant for research. Increasingly, researchers have drawn on their methodological expertise and creativity to find their way through the practical and ethical challenges. The rapid evidence review underlines that no researcher now needs to start from a blank page: others have gone before them, documenting the rationale for the methods decisions they have made.

The evidence indicates that some methods remain (or become more) suitable for lockdowns and distancing and that other methods can and have been adapted. While the evidence on the efficacy of those methods and adaptations is still in its infancy, researchers can now know what the issues are and the options available to them. It is clear where training and further efficacy reporting are particularly needed; one key example is the mode effects in surveys. Many studies involving considered adaptations or Covid-19 specific designs in 2020 will be published in 2021 when understanding of their effectiveness will become clearer.

We draw the following recommendations from the Review:

i. **Researchers embarking on or planning research during Covid-19 times should check this review** for insights into the methods issues they are likely to face and the solutions others have found;

ii. **Researchers need to consider and address the significant ethical and epistemic challenges alongside the practical and technical challenges** in times of crisis; the review includes material to inform research decision-making accordingly;

iii. NCRM and other **training organisations should provide short courses or resources to support researchers in areas of methods adaptations** and other options highlighted by the review:
    o Recruiting research participants in times of hardship, anxiety and social distance
    o Conducting telephone interviews
    o Selecting platforms for online interviews and focus groups and using them to support research relationships and elicit rich data
    o Mitigating and understanding the effects of mode changes in surveys and sampling issues in rapid surveys
    o Using cultural probes and expressive methods at a distance

- o Rapid qualitative research
- o Digital and blended ethnography
- o Autoethnographic methods
- o Working with community leaders and proxies/people on the ground to conduct research from a distance
- o Contingency planning for conducting research in times of uncertainty.

iv.   The synthesis should be updated to include 2021 literature;

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Appendix

The following table presents a summary of Map 1 and Map 2 criteria for all Recommendation 1a papers (Database D). The authors names provide links to the papers.

Author(s)	Country	Discipline / Field	Type of Paper	Study	Participants	Research Methods	Quality
Ali et al. (2020)	USA	Public Health, Social and Behavioural Sciences	Methods	Survey of Covid-19 knowledge, beliefs, and practices in USA	6602 adults residing in USA	Online survey	High
Braun, R. et al. (2020)	Multi-national authors	Not evident	Reflective study	N/A	N/A	General transference of methods online.	Low
Braun, V. et al. (2020)	New Zealand and UK	Social Psychology	Methods	Online collaborative study during lockdown	144 participants recruited through academic and personal networks on social media	Story-completion method	Medium
Burton et al. (2020)	UK	Sociology	Empirical and methods	Understanding Society household longitudinal panel survey with continuous fieldwork since 2009	22,400 households	Panel survey. Shift from in-person to telephone and online interviews	Medium
Chatha & Bretz (2020)	USA	Chemistry Education	Empirical	Continuation of a pre-Covid-19 study following university closure	Undergraduates enrolled in a General Chemistry II course at a medium- sized, liberal arts university in the midwestern US	Shift to remote interviewing. Use of video conferencing tools. Includes remote mouse control and annotation tools for drawing	Medium

Chávez et al. (2020)	Columbia	Not evident	Empirical	Systematization of experiences (SOE) study	Displaced / indigenous people victims of conflict	Online focus group with 14 psychosocial professionals, and national and regional coordinators. Use of participatory online apps, such as Mentimeter to build word clouds	Medium
Chawla (2020)	India	Not evident	Methods	Youth capabilities	N/A	Use of secondary data. Includes surveys in family health, education and human development	Medium
Chemi (2020)	Denmark	Education	Reflective	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (Higher Education tutor)	Autoethnography. Arts-based creative methods	High
Clarke & Watson (2020)	Multi-national	Varied	Empirical	'Crafting during Coronavirus' online collaborative research project	317 participants from 19 countries	Diaries - photos and craft making used for elicitation within a narrative inquiry design	Medium
Connelly & Gayle (2020)	UK	Sociology, Social Statistics	Reflective, opinion piece	N/A	N/A	Survey methods	Medium
Couceiro (2020)	UK	Education	Theoretical	Children's engagement with collective biographies of women published since 2016	Children age 7-14	Proposed methods include cultural probes ('response toolkit'), electronic toolkit of open-ended, arts-based activities, use of video and photos	Medium

Cuevas-Parra (2020)	Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mongolia, Romania, and Sierra Leone	Children and Families	Methods	Participatory Action Research	12 children / young people (aged 12-17) (co-researchers) Members of World Vision's Young Leaders Advocacy programme	One-to-one semi-structured interviews using virtual platforms, including Skype, WhatsApp, and Viber	High
Davis (2020)	Australia	Education	Reflective	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (educator)	Visual autoethnography. Reflective writing and artwork	Low
de Barros et al. (2020)	Portugal-based authors	International mobilities, Education	Methods	Various. Draws on individual research projects of authors	Various; Refugees	Shifts to online methods generally	Medium
DeGarmo (2020)	USA	Performance Arts	Autoethnography, methods	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (professional dancer and academic)	Performative reflexive autoethnography	Medium
Dirisu et al. (2020)	Nigeria	Public Health	Empirical	Maternal and new-born child health (MNCH) services	Healthcare practitioners and professionals, service providers and service users (women and their new-borns)	Phone interviews and online meeting platform. Use of quantitative service data	Medium

Dodds & Hess (2020)	New Zealand	Service Management, Transformative service research (TSR)	Methods	research project into youth alcohol consumption and family communication	9 family groups (35 total). Vulnerable participants (young people, age 12-22) with parent(s) (support group)	Face-to-face and online (via video conferencing platform) group interviews. Online group interviewing method adapted from de Ruyter (1996)	High
Ellis & Rawicki (2020)	USA	Not evident	Interview commentary	Interview with a 93-year-old survivor of the Holocaust, about his experience during the Covid-19 pandemic	Holocaust survivor	Virtual interviews using Skype, Messenger and Zoom	Medium
Favilla & Pita (2020)	Portugal and Brazil	Anthropology, Sociology	Reflective, methods	Two PhD projects	Various	Ethnography, interviews. Digital alternatives – Digital Anthropology and Skype / Zoom	Low
Fell et al. (2020)	Multi-national authors	Social policy, Energy social science	Conceptual	Draws on energy social research to discuss validity during and after Covid-19	N/A	Social research methods	Medium
Fritz et al. (2020)	Canada	Library and Information Science	Autoethnography, case study	Datathon event scheduled at Columbia University in March 2020 as part of the Archives Unleashed project bringing together tool builders, researchers and digital content access providers	Project data users. Interdisciplinary group of attendees: librarians and archivists, Humanities and Social Science researchers, computer scientists and technical support	Social distancing. Enforced cancellation of physical event	Low

[Goldstein et al. (2020)](#)	Brazil	Urban Design	Empirical	Participatory research In collaboration with COOPAMARE, a waste-pickers cooperative	Homeless youths in São Paulo	Participatory self-recorded methods - journaling and use of mobile probes. Secondary research methods	Medium
[Gratton et al. (2020)](#)	UK	Civic Engagement	Methods	'Keep Talking', a long-term UKRI Enhancing Partnerships participatory action research project for place-based engagement	People living with hardship in Stoke-on-Trent	Weekly face-to-face meetings between expert citizens and community researchers replaced by telephone interviews and group video calls. Introduced a range of creative methods	Medium
[Gross (2020)](#)	USA-based author in Belgium	Anthropology	Reflective, methods	Compares two periods of fieldwork in Liege – as a graduate student in 1982 and as a professor in 2020	Puppeteer community in Liege	Ethnographic fieldwork, observations. Switch to telephone interviews. Use of secondary data / online resources	Medium
[Gummer et al. (2020)](#)	Germany	Sociology	Empirical	The German Family Panel (pairfam) and the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)	Families	Panel survey methods. Switch from face-to-face to computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Paper-based self-administered questionnaire for sensitive material	Medium
[Gwenzi et al. (2020)](#)	Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa	Not evident	Methods	Ethnographic study of children's everyday lives under Covid-19 in three African countries	44 children aged 10-17	Digital, audio and traditional, written diaries. Follow-up telephone interviews. Recruitment through social media	Medium

Hafner-Fink & Uhan (2020)	Slovenia	Sociology	Empirical	Trust in the Slovenian government in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic	2000 participants. Probability sample of adult population of Slovenia prepared on the basis of the Slovenian Central Population Register	Online survey, postal survey; Opinion poll	Medium
Harris & Holman Jones (2020)	Australia	Education	Essay	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Authors (educators)	Critical autoethnography	Medium
Henze et al. (2020)	Zimbabwe, Indonesia and Mozambique	Not evident	Empirical	Academic-practitioner collaborative study	700 farmer co-researchers	Rapid response digital / phone survey in 5 weekly waves	High
Huber & Helm (2020)	Germany, Austria and Switzerland	Education	Empirical	School Barometer, a 'fast' survey conducted during the early weeks of the school lockdown to assess and evaluate the situation	7116 participants: parents, students, school staff, school leaders, school authority and members of the school support system	Survey methods	Medium
Jones et al. (2020)	Jordan, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip	Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion	Empirical	Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) longitudinal research to enhance adolescent capabilities and empowerment across low- and middle-income countries	Vulnerable adolescents	Shift to virtual methods: digital storytelling, photo-elicitation and diaries	Medium

Lawrence (2020)	UK-based author in China	Not evident	Methods	Not indicated	Not indicated	Ethnographic fieldwork. Shift from face-to-face to online interviews	High
Lee (2020)	USA	Not evident	Methods	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (Asian scholar and mother)	Writing as method. Photo assisted autoethnography	Low
Leemann et al. (2020)	Switzerland	Linguistics	Empirical	SDATS project, investigating variation and change in German-speaking Switzerland	1000 German speakers across 125 survey sites	Switch from on-site / in-person interviews to Videoconferencing. Use of a smartphone app specifically developed for the project	High
Liegghio & Caragata (2020)	Canada	Social work	Methods protocol	Ongoing project exploring the provisioning and resilience of youth living in low-income, lone mother households	Lone mothers and their children	Interviews, photo-voice	High
Lipscomb & Ashley (2020)	USA	Mental Health	Narrative reflections	The lived experiences of two Black mental health professionals in Los Angeles County	Authors	Autoethnography	Medium
Long (2020)	UK & New Zealand	Anthropology	Methods	Trialling of online surveys during lockdown	8,800 survey respondents	6 online surveys in UK and New Zealand	Low
Lovo (2020)	Fiji and Tonga	Not evident	Methods	Case studies	Community elders	Shift from observations and face-to-face 'talanoa' (dialogue) sessions to online methods ('virtual talanoa')	Medium

Luka (2020)	Canada	Arts and Media	Methods	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (Assistant Professor)	Autoethnography; Video editing	Medium
Markham et al. (2020)	Multi-national	Varied	Editorial	Introduction to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Respondents to project from 26 countries	Collaborative autoethnographic methods	Medium
Monchuk et al. (2020)	UK, Italy, Lebanon and Singapore	Social Sciences	Methods	Longitudinal ethnography and participatory action research (PAR)	70 co-researchers (aged 14-18)	Recruitment screening and PAR training via video calls. Virtual panel meetings / online discussion forum. Various participatory action research methods. Follow-up online one-to-one semi-structured interviews and reflective group meetings	High
Moraes Silva & Mont'Alverne (2020)	Brazil	Social Sciences	Methods protocol	Study of vulnerable populations in the city of Curitiba during the COVID-19 pandemic	Curitiba citizens	Phase 1: telephone interviews Phase 2: online surveys Phase 3: focus groups	Medium
Narasimhan et al. (2020)	India and Bangladesh	Not evident	Meta study	Multiple surveys. Meta-analysis of large, multi-site and multi-topic sample of interviews	Various survey populations	Survey methods. Computer-aided telephone interviews (CATI)	Medium

Ndhlovu (2020)	Zimbabwe	Sociology	Methods	Qualitative study on the gendered socio-economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in rural Zimbabwe	12 social work practitioners	Use of Skype and WhatsApp Messenger for voice notes and messaging. Secondary data	Low
O'Sullivan et al. (2020)	Ireland	Psychology	Methods protocol	Intergenerational family study	Children and parents	Online and telephone interviews	Medium
Partlow (2020)	UK	Disability Studies	Conceptual, opinion piece	N/A	N/A	Remote and digital methods	Medium
Prommegger et al. (2020)	Germany	Information systems	Empirical	The organisational role of IT professionals	IT professionals	Online questionnaires	High
Rogers et al. (2020)	Australia, Canada, USA, UK, India, Iran, Germany, Singapore and New Zealand	Multi-disciplinary, Urban Studies	Critical reflection	'Rapidly mobilised' podcasting project	Authors (25 Urban Studies scholars)	Podcasting and audio curation	High
Roy & Uekusa (2020)	New Zealand and Denmark	Social Sciences	Commentary	Collaborative autoethnography project. Self-narratives exploring first-hand experiences during the pandemic	Authors	Collaborative autoethnography (CAE)	High

Sakshaug et al. (2020)	Germany	Sociology	Empirical, methodological	Various panel surveys	Various study populations, including welfare recipients, unemployed persons, job seekers, refugees, public and private establishments, and the general household population	Panel survey methods	Medium
Sarkar (2020)	India	Sociology	Autoethnographic essay	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (academic and mother)	Autoethnography	Low
Sastry et al. (2020)	USA	Sociology	Empirical, methodological	Two Covid-19-specific survey supplements to the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)	Children and young people	Panel/longitudinal survey methods	Medium
Scherpenzeel et al. (2020)	European multi-national	Sociology	Empirical, methodological	The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)	Over 50s population from 28 participating countries	Survey methods. Switch from face-to-face Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) to Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)	High
Shelton (2020)	USA	Not evident	Conceptual	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author	Qualitative story telling	Medium

Snow (2020)	UK	Public Health	Methods	Ongoing oral history project: 'NHS at 70: The story of our lives'	NHS patients, frontline staff and policy makers.	Switch from face-to-face to telephone interviews. Evaluation of methods through anonymous feedback questionnaires integrated throughout project	Medium
Sovacool et al. (2020)	Authors from Denmark UAE and UK	Energy Science and Policy	Monologue, editorial	N/A	N/A	Social science methods generally, sampling, validity issues	High
Valdez & Gubrium (2020)	USA	Health Sciences	Methods	Participatory research study.	Community advisory board (CAB) members in Massachusetts	Semi-structured interviews via Zoom. Photovoice, digital story telling	High
Verma & Bizas (2020)	UK	Third sector	Methods	Rapid response repurposing of a Save the Children project in the UK	Children & families pushed into poverty by pandemic	Participatory and listening workshops with stakeholders. Online surveys, remote semi-structured individual and group interviews	Medium
Vicente et al. (2020)	Portugal & Germany	Education	Methods	Persist_EU international project funded by the Erasmus+ programme that seeks to gain insights into European university students'	European HE students	Surveys before and after an in-person event redesigned for an online platform	Low

Vindrola-Padros et al. (2020)	UK-based authors	Public Health	Empirical, methods	Policy review (rapid appraisal). Members of Rapid Research Evaluation and Appraisal Lab (RREAL) research team reflect on their experiences of conducting rapid qualitative research during Covid crisis	NHS healthcare providers, multi-national public health and clinical staff, and community engagement and relief workers. Multi-national oncology clinicians	Rapid media analysis and interviews with healthcare providers (NHS). Rapid Qualitative Study using telephone / online semi-structured interviews. Mixed-methods web-based survey	High
Waight (2020)	UK	Higher Education, Doctoral support	Methods	Study exploring materialism in doctoral writing	9 PhD students	Photovoice with online interviews	Medium
Weissman et al. (2020)	USA	Health, Psychology	Methods	Examining the current and future impact of Covid-19 on eating disorders research	187 academics and researchers in the field of eating disorders	Mixed-method survey	Medium
Will et al. (2020)	Germany	Sociology	Empirical, methods	German Educational System Panel study	Refugees	Panel survey methods. Switch from face-to-face to telephone interviews	High
Zheng (2020)	China	Not evident	Methods	Contribution to the Massive and Microscopic Sensemaking collaborative autoethnography project	Author (PhD student in hotel quarantine)	Photo and audio assisted autoethnography	Medium