



# A Report on the Round Table

## “Are You Here All Alone?: The Experiences, Challenges, and Successes of Female Researchers in Fieldwork”

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The round table titled “*A ti pa kar sama tukaj?: Izkušnje, izzivi in uspehi raziskovalk na terenskem delu*” (“Are You Here All Alone?: The Experiences, Challenges, and Successes of Female Researchers in Fieldwork”) took place on 21 May 2024 at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and so concluded a series of events part of the *Dnevi enakosti spolov FF 2024* (Days of Gender Equality FF 2024). The organisers of the round table and researchers of the ERC project DEAGENCY, Simona K. Zupanc, Tina Ivnik, and Petra Hamer, encouraged the participants to reflect on two key questions: how gender influences fieldwork and which safety strategies participants use and recommend in fieldwork.

The discussion confirmed that gender plays a significant role in fieldwork research regardless of the research environment. Participants Dagmar Nared (FF), Dr Marija Mojca Terčelj (FHŠ), Dr Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc (ZRC SAZU), Nastja Slavec (ZRC SAZU), and Dr Katja Žvan Elliott (MZZ) shared their experiences and strategies, providing insights into various ways female researchers navigate fieldwork often marked by patriarchal structures. Their fieldwork experiences in Turkey, South America, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Basque Country, and Morocco demonstrated that the impact of gender on fieldwork also varies depending on specific circumstances and cultural, religious, and political contexts.

Despite sharing diverse experiences, it became clear during the event that there

is insufficient discussion about preventive strategies to protect female researchers in the field. For example, this critical shortfall is even evident in the introductory methodology lectures at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. The researchers highlighted the need for clear and structured guidelines that could help female researchers better understand and prepare for the potential dangers and challenges of fieldwork.

The concluding initiative of the round table calls for a different approach and for the challenges that female anthropologists face to be seriously addressed. Creating a space for sharing experiences and strategies contributes to building a community that can provide support and safety for female researchers. This is crucial for the further development of fieldwork and ensuring equal conditions for all researchers regardless of gender.

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