



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Research/er/ed: Navigating, disrupting, and exploring liminal spaces between researcher and researched

A student-led online workshop, in association with the LSE PhD Academy and LSE Gender

Research as a process fundamentally relies on two bodies: one who does the researching, and the other on which research is done. These two bodies become the "researcher" and the "researched" in their relationship to each other. Within academia, this has traditionally come to be when a scholar identifies a body (in social sciences, generally a person or group of people) on which they will conduct research, at which point the roles fall into place - with the former becoming the researcher and the latter becoming the researched - with all of the power relations that stem from this.

But what if this process was disrupted, such that the object of research precedes the one who will research it, and perhaps even produces them? What if the relationship - the dichotomy - is completely overturned, such that the "researched" who calls for and the "researcher" to whom it calls are the same? This event, on the theme "researched <-> researcher", invites PhD students whose research works on or with an identity position or community to which they belong to discuss their experience of inhabiting the liminal space in the researcher/researched relationship.

The fantasy of the objective, and so fungible, researcher looms large in academia, born of a desire for the mythical, universal knowledge such a body would produce. There is, however, a growing critical movement within the social sciences, and throughout academia, that calls for reflexivity as an ethical standard of quality research. Reflexivity refers to a process of accounting for how the researcher's own identity and positionality affects the research they conduct. This makes the radical epistemological intervention that the identity of the researcher inherently and instrumentally shapes the knowledge they produce (McCorkel & Myers, 2003). Such reflection is especially urgent as the fallacy of "objective" knowledge production has been demonstrated by feminist, critical race, queer, and postcolonial scholars to further marginalise women, people of colour, and LGBTQ folk within the academy, and to alienate them from the right to produce knowledge about themselves and their lived reality.

In this one-day workshop, we are inviting our participants to speak to the "I" within their research, both in the position of "researcher" and "researched". This experience might emerge in myriad ways, whether our research involves interrogating, conceptualising, analysing, or excavating our communities, colleagues, comrades, loved ones, or our very selves. Our hope is the event will offer a space in which PhD students who are disrupting the line between "researched" and "researcher" identities in their work can discuss their experiences and build connections. Whether you find yourself navigating, struggling, or embracing the tensions of the research relationship, we invite you to meet like-minded people at the same stage in their career, talk about your own experiences and hear about others', and discuss the "researched/researcher" dichotomy.

The day will consist of two kinds of sessions, presentations and a discussion session:

- Presentation - A panel style session with multiple speakers, you are invited to give a short presentation on your experiences navigating the researcher/researched binary. This can be research-based or a more personal, experiential account. Presentations will be followed by a discussion about the themes raised through the session.
- Discussion - A structured discussion session led by a guest Chair. There will be prepared questions to stimulate discussion around the themes of the day, but the format is designed to accommodate the interests and input of all discussion participants. In this session there will also be time for networking and socialising with the other participants.

To apply, please submit a brief statement (up to 250 words) introducing:

- Yourself and your research
- How the theme of the event relates to your work and experience
- The title/ topic of your presentation paper

Submissions to be sent in Word format to r2rsymposium@gmail.com by 27th May 2022. We aim to inform all applicants about the outcome of their submission by mid-July. The event will take place online in Autumn 2022.

For further questions, please contact r2rsymposium@gmail.com.