
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Fascist and far right street formations in Britain 1980-2020 and anti-fascist resistance

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Project abstract:

This project explores parallels, patterns and divergences in extreme right street mobilisations from 1980 - 2020. It also looks at resistance to the extreme right at street level from anti-fascists. It will examine change over time in extreme right groups and patterns of opposition. Organisations such as trade unions working with anti-fascists will be examined, as will splinter groups within the extreme right. The study will use primary source documents that are in the public domain, either through publicly accessible collections such as the Searchlight Archive or because they are open-access webpages. It will also employ some interview data taken from prominent anti-fascists.

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Copyright information:

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Fascist and far right street formations in Britain 1980-2020 and anti-fascist resistance

Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

This project relies on two broad categories of data: material published by extreme right groups and oral history interviews with anti-fascists.

With regard to material published by extreme right groups, here I will be collating data that is already in the public domain. This will primarily involve archival material from the Searchlight Archive at UON and other related archives (e.g. the Wiener Library and the British Library) and will focus on items such as magazines and leaflets generated by extreme right street groups. I will also take data related to the extreme right from their publicly accessible webpages. I expect to find a high volume of material from this process.

Secondly, I will also be interviewing selected anti-fascists who are known in the public domain as active anti-fascists. Taking part in the interviews will be voluntary. I aim to interview up to eight anti-fascists. The interviews may last up to 90 minutes, with as many breaks within as participants wish (I will ask participants as to how and when they wish for coffee/tea breaks) These will allow for deeper qualitative assessments of anti-fascist activism.

Interviewees are chosen should they agree, as several have a wide, vast knowledge in the area studied. Two will have particular knowledge to impart around the later area focused on, from 2009. This is discussed later, one person is Weyman Bennett, who I once worked for. The other is Paul Jenkins who I worked alongside in Unite Against Fascism. All of course will only be interviewed if they are comfortable with the project and their role within it.

There are relatively few such interviews that are accessible, which is why I will need to develop a larger data set. These will be stored as audio files and transcribed as text files.

I will follow the UK Data Service recommendations of the following format for 'data use, sharing and preservation': <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/learning-hub/research-data-management/format-your-data/recommended-formats/>

For textual data, I will use Rich Text Format (.rtf).

For Image data, I will use TIFF version 6 uncompressed (.tif).

For audio data, I will use Free Lossless Audio Codec (FLAC) (.flac).

How will the data be collected or created?

In terms of developing archival data, this will follow standard empirical historical approaches to data gathering. I will focus on groups I have identified as historically significant, then search for and explore source material related to street activism and use this to select and focus my data gathering. I expect to take a wide range of images from extreme right publications and other campaigning materials that these groups developed. I will organise data based on the groups that I identify, and order these datasets chronologically for simplicity of access. I will use high-resolution image files when recording data from archives, to ensure data is not lost.

I will structure my files on the basis of the chapters of my research, which will be chronological from 1980s to 2020. My file naming convention will record archives and box references, or data relating to publication details. I will also use a data dictionary method to order my data and will develop an Excel spreadsheet model to highlight key data and its place in the research. Chapters of research will be

itemised to denote the structure of the dictionary. I will utilise the dictionary to input data as I accrue key elements and the source references of the data.

In terms of gathering oral history interviews, I have contacts within the anti-fascist community, so I already know people to approach for an interview. Potentially, I will be able to develop more interviews based on some of their contacts. These interviews will be stored as whole interviews in audio format as well as text transcripts, and I may aim for eight interviews overall. I expect these interviews to be lengthy, semi-structured discussions, allowing for over an hour of reflection. These long-form discussions will allow participants to explain and express themselves fully and clearly. My research methodology will also seek to cross-reference claims in interviews with other data sources to ensure the accuracy of my analysis. These interviews will be used to supplement the analysis and allow for deeper exploration of the motivation and perceptions of anti-fascists. I will be following standard Oral History best practice approaches, as developed by the Oral History Society.

I do not expect to be modifying files once I have gathered my data. If any file modifications are necessary, I will ensure that any changes and updates made to files include the revised date, author and how and when any modifications to files are chronologically made. To ensure differentiation between versions of files, I will number the different versions of documents, for instance, document 1.0, document 1.02 and so on. I would use a version control scheme whereby details of which versions of the document exist, what, if any, changes are made by me and when are recorded. I would thus securely keep control of any changes to files and my documents.

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

With regards to my archival material, the datasets will be made be accessible to future researchers. I will record the archival referencing data (collection name, box number etc.) and link this to my file naming system, or where relevant, publication details in my file storage system. Metadata here will include descriptive metadata detailing the images, as well as technical metadata detailing the file information. This will allow ease of access to these details for my research, and also easy location of the source material for any future users of my archive image dataset. This material will be deposited in the Searchlight Archive at UON after I complete my project as a digital dataset.

In terms of the oral history interviews, I will also deposit these in the Searchlight Archive collection once the project is complete, if the interviewee has given consent for such long-term archiving. If not, the interview data will be destroyed after my project. Metadata here will include descriptive metadata detailing the interview, as well as technical metadata detailing the file information.

Secondary users will be provided with a document describing the archived interview set and its metadata. This will detail the name (unless the interviewee has requested anonymity) and the date of the interviews. This will allow the content will be understandable to those who seek to reuse the data once it is deposited in the Searchlight Archive. People seeking to locate my data in the future can correspond with the Searchlight Archivist at UON.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

In terms of archival data, I will use material already in the public domain, such as in archives or magazines published by extreme right groups. I will also use open-access websites developed by extreme right groups, but I will not be using social media sites. While this data is all 'open source' and in the public domain, I consider it sensitive data and will ensure it is stored on a password-protected SharePoint drive.

Data related to oral history interviews will be more complex in terms of research ethics processes, and I will be following standard Oral History approaches throughout.

I will use a participation consent approach to deal with the issue of the anonymity of participants. This is typical of oral history approaches. Some participants are likely to be comfortable with their actions being the object of study, and being recognised may be part of their motivation for participating, while others will prefer to remain anonymous. If at any moment before or during the interview, the interviewee is distressed or appears so, I shall immediately stop the interview and attend to their needs. I would terminate any interview if the interviewee needed help regarding their emotional state for instance. I will talk this through with interviewees and discuss any issues they may wish to raise. I will only proceed with their satisfaction with the procedure. This will happen before the interview, and I will ensure each participant knows that the interviews are voluntary.

I have developed an information sheet and a consent form, based on UON templates. These inform participants that the thesis will make reference to interview recordings. I will inform interviewees that any mention by name of friends, family or political opponents can be redacted at any time should the interviewee wish.

I recognise that anonymity can be crucial to not misrepresenting interviewee's views. I base guidance on the anonymization of participants from this guide. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/data-sharing/anonymisation/how-do-we-ensure-anonymisation-is-effective/>

I will ask people who have key information, background knowledge and much experience around this project. Thus, they will be great assets in my studies. Their thoughts, insights and informed views, will be a focused way of guiding research, though I am aware of some challenges. I may ask one or two participants if they recommend others who may be of interest to the project about possible interviews. I understand though that there are issues of confidentiality and privacy, so would take advice from supervisors before approaching possible interviewees.

I would ensure that no possible interviewee who may be suffering stress or emotional distress would feel in any way they had to participate. I would ascertain this at the earliest stage as possible before any interviews. Any vulnerable person would be safeguarded and I have also read relevant literature on distress and care for any participants. At every stage of research, participants well being and health is of the utmost priority. I would intervene immediately at any sign of participant distress. I would seek medical assistance and of course inform supervisors.

I will consider who the person wishes to be anonymous from, for instance, family and/or the wider public. I will record via Teams. To help ensure anonymity I will use Microsoft Teams for interviewing. Their face will be invisible if they so wish. I will do this by not sharing the screen and turning off the camera. To ensure anonymity participants will be asked to turn off their cameras too. Tattoos, a necklace or item of jewellery can be located by a hostile actor so care and consideration would be given to recorded camera appearance if the interview is filmed and not solely on audio on Teams. I will ensure that none not part of the interview process will be identified.

In the unlikely event of an act of illegality being volunteered by the interviewee, I may find it necessary to break confidence, and my information sheet makes this issue clear. I will also inform the interviewee of this before the interview and before the interview commences. Legal duties may compel a researcher to do this. I will consult with my supervisors before any such course of action.

I would disguise a person's voice if requested by for example, using a 'voice over'. Were this situation a possibility, I would seek advice of supervisors and inform the Archivist should I implement this. The UK Data Service's advice on the issues of informed consent is most helpful. For instance, directions on the voluntary centrality of participants and how data will be stored in the Archive.

I will comply with Data Protection Law. I will keep updated with any changes to the law, like guidance or case law and any technological impacts. Supervisors would oversee my work here, but I am

responsible for effective anonymisation. I will collect personal data which is necessary only for my research.

Interviewees will be able to obtain a copy of their interview transcript, along with updates on the project if they wish. I take the duty of care to interviewees seriously, and any mental health issues they may disclose. I would act accordingly with respect to their health should such arise.

I will inform participants how data will be used, stored and shared. Only after asking and gaining agreement from participants would I use and/or share data they may provide. I will not share data during the process above. Use of audio recording in an interview would be in a file stored again in a password-protected SharePoint drive. I will tell interviewees that their permission letters and consent forms will be stored in a separate protected UON Research SharePoint.

Their consent and involvement will be able to be withdrawn at any time up to 30 days after the interview if they wish. I would ask the interviewee if they wish for any limits on availability or use of their interview. Participants would be told of their rights concerning copyright law and that the interviewee also retains copyright rights. I would ensure that interviewees have copies of the consent and participation information forms and that interviewees know what rights they have.

I have been on online ethical data courses, which are UON-approved and am aware of the complexities and concerns regarding this area. I would inform participants that, should any of their personal data be breached, I would swiftly report this to the Data Protection and Information Governance Team and to supervisors.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

In terms of archival material from extreme right groups, copyright is likely to remain with the original authors, and unless I know otherwise, I will assume this to be the case. Nevertheless, I will be able to use small sections of this material in my research under the fair usage guidance offered by law, outlined here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exceptions-to-copyright>

In terms of oral histories, as with many oral history interviews, the interviewee will retain the copyright of their content. I will also ensure they are clear on how the interview will be stored after the interview is completed. In sum, it may or may not be anonymised according to their preference, and it may be archived in the Searchlight Archive collection after the completion of my project if they consent to this.

It is not considered best practice to develop a Creative Commons licence for oral history interviews.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

I will store and back up all my research data on UON SharePoint drive, following UON's IT guidance on backing up research data. I will not be using an external storage device to back up data. This will not require an additional cost.

After the project is complete, relevant data will be deposited in the Searchlight Archive, which has its own resources for storing digital data. This will also not require an additional cost, as the archive has its own resources for maintaining digital collections.

How will you manage access and security?

I will only use the UON SharePoint drive to ensure data is secure. My data will be password-protected, and I recognise that access to data is my responsibility.

I will transfer data from images in the archive from a digital camera directly to my SharePoint drive and destroy the files on the digital camera.

I will save Tamas recordings directly to my SharePoint drive.

I do not have collaborators.

I will continue to follow UON IT advice, which is regularly communicated to researchers to ensure I maintain up-to-date approaches to managing access and security.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

A selection of my dataset will be kept for long-term use in the Searchlight Archive on an indefinite basis at the end of the project. This will include images I have developed through my archival research. I will present these to the archivist and follow their advice as to which datasets they are prepared to accept, and other data will therefore be destroyed.

In terms of oral history interview data, for participants who have consented, audio files and transcripts of oral history interviews will also be deposited in the Searchlight Archive on an indefinite basis.

Future research uses for this data include the deeper study of the British extreme right cultures and antifascist responses.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

As detailed above, data will be preserved in the Searchlight Archive. There is no cost for data to be put here. I will be able to provide the archivist with my metadata and electronic files, to allow easy transfer of the data, and I do not envisage this to require significant additional time.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

Data deposited in the Searchlight Archive after completion of my research project will be discoverable via the archive's online catalogue.

I will comply with the archive's standard depositor guidance and have discussed this with the archivist, who is happy to take this deposit.

This practice follows earlier research projects that have used material primarily from the Searchlight Archive collection, supplemented with oral history testimonies. These include the completed UON PhD project by Siobhan Hyland, 'Searchlight magazine's Anti-fascist campaign to uncover Second World War era war criminals living in Britain during the 1980s and 1990s.'

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

I do not require prolonged exclusive use of the data after it is deposited in the Archive. With regard to interview data, I do not foresee the need for a data-sharing agreement, as consent for depositing the interview in the archive will be established through the consent form.

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Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

During the PhD project, I am responsible for data management. No partners are involved in the research.

After the project's completion, data will be stored on an open-ended basis in the Searchlight Archive at UON and the archive will become responsible for managing the data.

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

Additional software is not required for my research, nor is expert training.