# Reformulating Anthropological Research during COVID-19

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#### My Research Plan Before COVID

- Previous research focus: Oneida language revitalization at a children's immersion summer camp
- Language and identity; language and wellbeing; language revitalization and childhood
- Previous research methods: semi-structured interviews and participant observation

#### What changes did I have to make?

- Everything community, scope, questions, methods
- New research is pandemic-focused examines the varied effects that COVID has had/is having on Indigenous language revitalization (ILR) efforts in Canada
- Research questions: what are some of the challenges and opportunities for ILR during this time? What adaptive and resilient strategies are being created and implemented in place of in-person language learning?

## Challenges

- Time
- Reconceptualizing my project
- Redoing REB (Research Ethics Board) application
- Getting participation

# Opportunities

- Having to be adaptive and creative
- Collaborative opportunities

#### A Brief Overview of my New Research Methods

- 1. Searching and Tagging Tweets
- 2. Online Survey
- 3. Non-participant observation with Oneida immersion classes for adult students
- 4. Online webinars (through YouTube) with panelists from Canada talking about their experiences with ILR and digital language activism during COVID
- 5. Semi-structured virtual interviews with students of Indigenous language course at Western











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Word of the day

PILCUANCO Dates

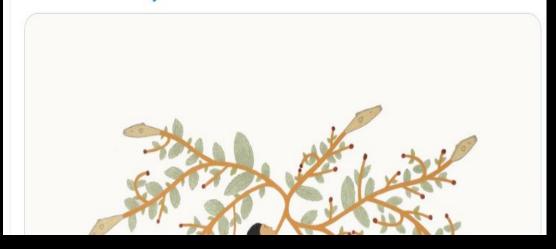
Uummattiarittut nunaliit

Uum-mat-ti-a-rit-tut nu-na-liit

**Healthy Communities** 

(Image: Qavavau Manumie's Arniniq Inuusiq) #COVID19

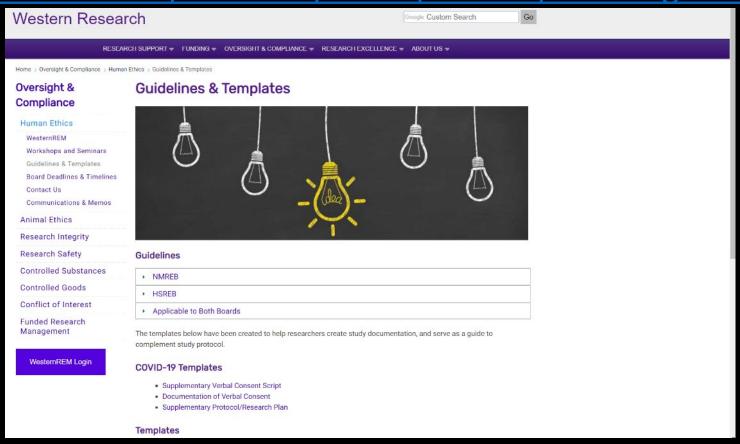
#world #TBday #Inuit #Nunavut



### Practical Tips and Suggestions

Look for REB tips for safe research

https://www.uwo.ca/research/ethics/human/board\_guidelines.html



# Tips, continued

- YouTube transcription
- Grants



# Thank you

- Please let me know if you have questions
- Feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:lgallant@uwo.ca">lgallant@uwo.ca</a>

#### Review of main points and tips that aren't written on my slides!:

- You are not alone! You have a support system in place and your supervisor is there to help you.
- COVID-19 has presented added complexities and challenges to everyone's daily lives, so participating in research can be far from many people's minds. As researchers, we should identify that reality and respect that.
- Keep an open mind with research methods and theory.
- If you're working with social media data check out NCapture an extension for your Internet browser.
  - When you find a page, Tweet, Facebook post, etc. for your research, click on the NCapture icon and it compiles your captured data in your Downloads. You can make a separate folder for your NCapture data.
  - Import the NCapture data to NVivo, where you can do your coding and analysis.
- An online survey can be a useful tool for data collection.
  - Western students can use Qualtrics for free and without approval (visit https://mysurveys.uwo.ca/).
- Virtual observations can be helpful.
  - i.e. you could potentially look into getting permission to observe (and maybe participate in) virtual meetings or activities as a way to get to know your collaborators.
- Follow as many people as you can on social media platforms that specialize in your research area and/or talk about these topics often.
  - This way, you can learn about the kinds of online discussions that are happening; different resources, opportunities, webinars; and can connect you with other virtual networks (scholarly, community-based, among others).
- <u>YouTube</u> has a <u>transcription</u> function.
  - When you're watching a YouTube video, you should see an icon with three dots on the bottom righthand corner; click on "Open Transcript" you should see the transcript of the video.
  - The transcription is computer-generated so it's not perfect, but this feature still saves a lot of time!
- Seek out grants for your research.
  - There have been pandemic-focused grants, so check to see if there are any funding opportunities still available.
- This isn't the research or grad school experience we imagined! However, doing research during COVID is both challenging and a really interesting opportunity. We get to interact with other people in new and innovative ways and document social, cultural, and linguistic life during a pandemic.