

A Guide to Conducting your Research Project (Assignment 2)

(Edited C. Taylor January 2022)

This module requires that you complete a piece of qualitative (ethnographical) research. This research project is developed through the following stages:

Step 1 – You need to think about your research proposal. Choose one of the frameworks outlined in the list of research project options on the RCC Assignments page, in line with your MA (Cultural Astronomy & Astrology or Ecology & Spirituality). Be influenced by your access to a group of individuals that you can interview and/or involve in a questionnaire – you need to select and build your research project around this group.

Step 2 You will need to select additional papers (from JSTOR or other academic resources) that you will use for your **literature review** and build your research project around those supplied with the project as well as these extra papers you have found.

You can use either interviews and/or questionnaires, although for this module as a learning experience we recommend a combination of both methodologies.

To help with these steps you will need to:

- i) Enter your initial thinking in the **Forum for Research Proposal Ideas**. Start a new topic and through this the tutors will give you help and feedback via that topic.
- ii) Read all the topics put forward by your fellow students and follow the discussions as this will inform your thinking for your own work.

Step 3 – You need to read the material on **Ethics** and be aware that you will be required to complete **the Ethics Form (E1)** located on the Researching Contemporary Cosmologies Moodle page. This can only be completed once you have settled on your project, as you need to describe your research project on this form. Return it to your tutor by email for approval before you embark on your practical research project. You should be fully aware of the ethical considerations attached to research and bear these in mind when choosing your research subject.

Expect this to take a few drafts. You will be **allocated one of the tutors** to work with and they will help you draft your proposal and then complete this Ethics form. This can take you a few weeks and has to be approved by the lead module tutor before you can commence your field work.

Step 4 – Conduct your research in the field.

Step 5 – Write up and submit your completed research project by the due date.
