



## Key Advice

### Personal field journal instructions

As an essential part of participant observation, write detailed descriptions, reflecting on:

- What objects impress you and/or the people around you?
- What spatial arrangements are worth noting? Include descriptions of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste
- What routes and routines catch your attention?
- Who seems to be taking centre stage particularly?
- Who seems to be staying in the margins?
- For both the central and marginal: what do they do?
- What seems to matter to them? (norms, values, passions)
- What do they say? (keywords, opinions, statements, stories)

For practical and ethical purposes, be sure to:

- Always document your experiences.
- Bring a pen and notebook for journaling during site visits.
- Consider multimedia documentation such as photography, film and audio recording.
- Ask for consent when taking formal interviews, close-up pictures and audio and or video recordings