



# CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide User Story

Duncan Simpson, a Marie Curie Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, tells his story on using the guide for heterogeneous data collection.



## The researcher

I am Duncan Simpson, a Marie Curie Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS) of the University of Lisbon. I gained my doctoral degree (PhD) from King's College London, with a thesis on the relations between the Catholic Church and the Salazar dictatorship.

## About my research

My research project aims to challenge the existing historiographical narrative on the relation between ordinary citizens and the Salazarist political police (PIDE). The project will study the 'grey zone' of spontaneous interactions between common citizens and the political police, by highlighting the degree of social normalization of the PIDE, and by opening up new perspectives on the way power itself was exercised by the regime. Four research methodologies are used:

1. **State of the art and critical evaluation** of the relation between the historiography of the PIDE and 'anti-fascist' memory.
2. **Questionnaire-based opinion survey** directed to 400 participants in the cities of Lisbon, Viseu, Braga, and Faro.
3. **Oral history**: semi-directed interviews of 30 ordinary citizens with direct experience of life under the PIDE.
4. **Archival research**, focusing on the spontaneous interactions between individual citizens and the political police through letters of denunciation, petitions and letters of spontaneous application to join the PIDE.

## My use of the CESSDA DMEG

I discovered the CESSDA DMEG thanks to the research methodology [workshop on data management planning organised at ICS](#) by Pedro Moura Ferreira and Patricia Miranda, on 6 November 2019. **For my research project** I used the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 Plan**: A very useful introduction to Data Management Planning, allowing users to gain a clear knowledge of some of the key concepts in the area, such as FAIR Data.
- **Chapter 3 Process**: Particularly important in allowing users to grasp the methods needed to minimize errors during the data entry processes and to gain practical knowledge of how best to manage the integrity and authenticity of the data during the entire research process.
- **Chapter 4 Store**: Crucial in understanding and implementing adequate measures to protect the data against accidental loss and unauthorised manipulation, especially in relation to collecting sensitive personal data.

The benefits and impact of using the CESSDA DMEG were manifold and far-reaching. In collaboration with ICS's own Data Protection Officer, I was able to design a solid and secure DMP that was subsequently approved by the authorities of the Marie Curie Fellowship actions.

## Across disciplines

The CESSDA DMEG proved invaluable in enabling me to design my DMP in accordance with the various research methodologies used in the course of my research programme. In particular, it provided me with both the theoretical framework and practical know-how necessary to plan, treat and store the personal data of the respondents engaged in the opinion survey. The same applies to the data associated with the interviewees partaking in the oral history part of my research. Gaining hands-on experience of the different strategies used to ensure safe storage of the collected data and protect individual confidentiality rights was particularly important.

## EOOSC in practice

I have not used any services from the EOOSC portal. I do not currently feel that I need any training in these services and tools, though this may be the case later in my career.

