

Discussievragen voor docenten en studenten

1. You want to excavate in a minority community and have permission from the national authorities. The local people are not happy with your project and do not want you to continue your excavations, despite the fact that you have the proper permits. Administratively, everything is ready to go. Are you going to continue the dig or not?
2. You want to take samples of bones from a cemetery. A group of people who claim to be descended from the deceased disagree and want to rebury bones, without any research being done. What will you do?
3. You want to publish/write a paper about a project in Peru and you are almost ready. You have only used English literature, but know that there is a lot of Spanish literature that is more recent and may contradict your findings. You do not speak Spanish. What will you do?
4. For your MA thesis, you spent four weeks doing research in a Berlin archive. While you're writing your thesis at home, you discover some inaccuracies in your notes. Some useful quotes did not include page numbers. In another case you suspect, but are not sure, that you have forgotten the word 'not'. (With that negation, the quote would take on a completely different meaning.) Your thesis deadline is two weeks away. What will you do?
5. Your MA thesis has been so successful that your supervisor encourages you to write a PhD proposal based on this paper. "But," she adds, "if you want to persuade the lender to fund your project, you need to put a strong emphasis on the importance of your research. You may exaggerate or bluff a bit in such a project application, which is part of the genre!" You look at her somewhat stunned, because as a thesis supervisor she constantly insisted on accuracy, precision and 'don't say more than you can deliver'. What will you do?
6. You have written an article about a cultural-historical subject from a distant past that will cause a stir in a wider circle and with which you will almost certainly make the NOS news. You realize that certain population groups will be offended by the results of your research. What are you doing?
7. You are a student working on your MA thesis. You unexpectedly make a sensational discovery. Your thesis supervisor recognizes the potential of your findings and says that he/she will immediately process the information in an article that he/she is currently working on. You do not like the idea. What will you do?
8. You are working with a community with little economical and political power. You are working together intensively with a local research assistant, who is semi-literate, but has an excellent knowledge of the language and a great network in the community. Your resulting thesis is of such a quality that your supervisor encourages you to publish it as an article. How reasonable is it to acknowledge the contribution of your collaborator by inviting her to become a co-author of the planned article?