ENTERING THE FIELD

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Learning Objectives

- Understand what fieldwork is in qualitative research.
- Recognize ethical considerations in conducting fieldwork.
- Differentiate between appropriate terminology for qualitative vs. quantitative fieldwork and data collection.
- Determine appropriate action steps for researchers in entering the field.
WHAT IS FIELDWORK?

- Research in natural environments
- How qualitative researchers generate their data
- Gaining access to research sites
- Level of participation must be determined before fieldwork begins
  - Purposive sampling
- Participants vs. subjects
ORIENTATION TO THE FIELD

- Determine role to play
- Observe setting with the viewpoint of an "outsider"
- Becoming an insider
- Barriers to researchers
- Strategies to gain access to the field:
  - Extended time in the field before beginning research
  - Permission from authority figures
  - Snowballing

Photo Source
ETHICS IN FIELDWORK

- Safeguard the participants
- Communicate purposes of research
- Protect privacy of participants
- Never exploit participants
- Share written reports with participants
REFERENCES
