



# Data Sharing Protocol

WJS Center

*1 July 2015*

1	Background	2
2	Data Ownership	2
3	Data Management	2
4	Data Protection	3
5	Data Use and Data Sharing	3
6	Data Proliferation	3
7	Dissemination and Publication Policies	4
8	Attribution Rules	4
	Appendix I: Countries supported by the WJS Center	5
	Appendix II: Outline of WJS book publication	6
	Appendix III: WJS funding sources	7

## 1 BACKGROUND

- a) The **WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY (WJS)** is an academically driven project that aims to assess the state of journalism throughout the world. The Study's primary objective is to help journalism researchers, practitioners, media managers and policy makers better understand worldviews and changes that are taking place in the professional orientations of journalists, the conditions and limitations under which they operate, as well as the social functions of journalism in a changing world.
- b) In order to do so, the national **Principal Investigators**, who are members of the WJS network, are responsible for carrying out representative surveys of journalists in their respective countries.
- c) Field research in the various countries is guided by the WJS overall **Methodological Framework** as specified in the Field Manual and the Master Questionnaire (<http://www.worldsofjournalism.org/docs/Manual.pdf> and <http://www.worldsofjournalism.org/docs/Questionnaire.doc>, respectively).
- d) The WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY is directed by the **WJS CENTER** (currently based at the LMU Munich) under the general supervision of the WJS Executive Committee. The WJS CENTER is responsible for field research coordination, data management, and the organization of WJS events.
- e) WJS Principal Investigators are collaborating based on the understanding that their data will be shared across all participating researchers. All participating researchers will have access to the WJS **Consolidated Data File** if their submitted data sets comply with the WJS overall Methodological Framework.

## 2 DATA OWNERSHIP

- a) As a matter of principle, and in respect of intellectual property rights, ownership of national data sets rests with the respective Principal Investigators.
- b) In cases where the WJS CENTER has financially supported field research (see list in Appendix I), national data sets are owned by the Principal Investigators and the WJS CENTER collectively. Decisions regarding data use, data sharing, data proliferation, and publications based on this data set are subject to approval by the WJS CENTER.
- c) Data owners in the sense of the above can withdraw their country data sets from the WJS Consolidated Data File at any point in time. However, this does not apply to Principal Investigators who have received financial support from the WJS CENTER.

## 3 DATA MANAGEMENT

- a) Principal Investigators must submit their national data sets to the WJS CENTER no later than by June 30, 2015. Data sets must be accompanied by a Methodological Documentation as specified in the WJS Field Manual.
- b) The WJS CENTER will assess national data sets for validity, reliability, and integrity. Identified data issues will be discussed with the respective Principal Investigators and resolved, if possible, collaboratively. Specific attention will be paid to following issues: sample size, missing variables, scale deviations, missing values, non-response, as well as invalid and inconsistent values.
- c) The WJS CENTER will carefully inspect the Methodological Documentations for every country to make sure that the overall survey design adheres to the WJS Methodological Framework. Methodological Documentations must at least include information

about the following: Size of population; Sampling procedures; Response rate; Interview methods; and Field research period.

- d) The WJS CENTER will make recommendations as to whether a national data set is eligible for inclusion in the WJS Consolidated Data File based on overall considerations of data quality and compliance with the WJS Methodological Framework.
- e) Based on these recommendations, the WJS Executive Committee will decide which national data sets will be incorporated in the WJS Consolidated Data File.

## 4 DATA PROTECTION

- a) Since the WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY methodologically relies on interviews with journalists, national data sets may contain sensitive information. Data protection issues may arise from the fact that conventions and regulations regarding the protection of personal information vary across national borders.
- b) The WJS CENTER will therefore remove from the Consolidated Data File all information that allows identifying respondents and/or their institutions (most notably, the names of news organizations) and replace them by generic proxies.

## 5 DATA USE AND DATA SHARING

- a) Data owners in the sense of Section 2 above are free to use their data sets for all kinds of purposes without asking the WJS CENTER for permission. Furthermore, country teams may team up, share data sets and use them for focused or regional comparative analyses as long as this does not conflict with Subsection 7 b below.
- b) Premature use of data sets (without clearance from the WJS CENTER) should be avoided for that it can lead to inconsistent results across different publications.
- c) For countries in which the WJS CENTER has financially supported field research, Principal Investigators must coordinate with the WJS CENTER when they wish to use and/or share their data for the above listed purposes.
- d) The WJS Consolidated Data File will be shared among all Principal Investigators, but conditions apply:
  - Principal Investigators will have *full access* to the WJS Consolidated Data File if their national data files comply with the WJS overall Methodological Framework.
  - Principal Investigators will have *partial access* to the WJS Consolidated Data File if their national data files do not comply with the WJS overall Methodological Framework for all of the variables (e.g. because some questions were asked in substantively different ways, or not at all).
  - Principal Investigators will have *no access* to the WJS Consolidated Data File if their national data files were found to be corrupt or (partially or fully) fabricated, if samples do not meet the criteria outlined in the Field Manual, or if the Methodological Documentation misses critical information (see Subsection 3 c).

## 6 DATA PROLIFERATION

- a) Consistent with the WJS Statutes, the Consolidated Data File will remain strictly under embargo for three years after the end of the designated fieldwork period, i.e. until 30

June 2017. During this period, the Consolidated Data File should not be shared with individuals and institutions who are not members of the WJS network.

- b) After the embargo period, the WJS Consolidated Data File will be made available to the global research community via the project web site.

## 7 DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATION POLICIES

- a) The WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY is a collaborative endeavor. As such, collaborative publication and collective authorship should be the principle avenue of disseminating the Study's results to a larger audience, academic and non-academic.
- b) Central findings from the WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY (2012-15), using the Consolidated Data File, will be published collectively – in an edited volume that contains jointly authored chapters (see outline in Appendix II). The book has priority over other forms of publication (e.g. journal articles) to the extent that contents and analyses that are (to be) produced for the book shall not be used for any other, individual publication before the book is published.
- c) The Consolidated Data File may be used for any publication that touches upon issues not included in the book at any point in time. Recipients of the Consolidated Data File (see Subsection 5 d) may use the data set for all kinds of publications once the book is published.
- d) Whenever the Consolidated Data File is used for publications in the above sense (Subsection 7 c), all data owners (see Section 2) should be offered co-authorship as a matter of good scientific practice.
- e) Co-authorship in the above sense, however, is not automatically granted but based on commitment and performance. In line with existing academic conventions, co-authorship necessitates an identifiable and substantive contribution to the publication.
- f) Data owners in the sense of Section 2 are free to produce all kinds of publications that are based on their national data sets at any point in time. In cases where the WJS CENTER has financially supported field research, Principal Investigators must coordinate with the WJS CENTER.
- g) Data owners in the sense of Section 2 are free to collaborate and combine their data sets for regional and comparative analyses and publications as long as this practice does not conflict with other arrangements in this Section.

## 8 ATTRIBUTION RULES

- a) Publications based on the Consolidated Data File must acknowledge the WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY as its intellectual context, the collaborative nature of the study, and all funding sources (see list in Appendix III).
- b) Publications based on national data sets, or a combination thereof, may wish to acknowledge the larger WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY context and the collaborative nature of the study.
- c) An acknowledgment is required for all publications that use data from countries where field research was financially supported by the WJS CENTER. Reference should be made to the WORLDS OF JOURNALISM STUDY as intellectual context, to the collaborative nature of the study, and to LMU Munich as a funding source.

**APPENDIX I:**  
**COUNTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE WJS CENTER**

1. Chile
2. China
3. Egypt
4. El Salvador
5. Ethiopia
6. Greece
7. Hungary
8. India
9. Indonesia
10. Kosovo
11. Latvia
12. Sierra Leone
13. Malawi
14. Malaysia
15. Mexico
16. Moldova
17. Serbia
18. South Africa
19. Spain
20. Sudan

**APPENDIX II:**  
**OUTLINE OF WJS BOOK PUBLICATION**

(Working title)

***Worlds of Journalism***

Introduction

**The Study**

Conceptual and Methodological Framework

**Global Mapping**

Professional Identities

Professional Ethics

Perceived Influences

Professional Autonomy

Journalists and the Newsroom

Journalists and Public Trust

Transformation of Journalism

**Conclusions**

Global Trajectories

## APPENDIX III: WJS FUNDING SOURCES

Austrian Science Fund

Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute

Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

German Research Foundation

LMU Munich

Ohio University

Open Society Foundation

Qatar University

Sanomat Foundation

Swiss National Science Foundation

The Second Authority for Television and Radio

Universidad Nacional de la Matanza

University of Agder

University of Bergen, Department of Information Science and Media Studies

University of Miami

University of the Sunshine Coast

University of Tirana