



Fieldwork z-proso Data Collection Wave 9 (2022)

zIReN Meeting Edinburgh 2022

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1. Milestones



Milestones – Fieldwork data collection wave 9 (I)

~1,400 participants (at age 24) had to be recontacted:

Sep 21	– 12 expert interviews with participants (via Zoom/phone) in September 2021
Oct 21	– Development of comprehensive recruitment strategy – Recruit co-fieldwork manager
Nov 21	– Dispatch pre-announcement letter in November 2021 – Publish subhomepage for participants – Update dashboard in collaboration with the DeSciL team
Dec 21	– Start of work co-fieldwork manager – Recruit fieldwork staff (13 persons) – Submission of ethics application in collaboration with project lead



Milestones – Fieldwork data collection wave 9 (II)

Jan 22	– Plan survey implementation in collaboration with DeSciL	
Feb 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Setting the survey process – Fieldwork staff training (incl. recruitment & survey manuals) – Dispatch invitation letter in February 2022 	
Mar - Apr 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fieldwork main survey phase (980 completed interviews) – Start of active recruitment at the end of March 	Data collection
May - Jul 22	– Fieldwork further survey phase (180 completed interviews)	Data collection
Aug 22	– End of fieldwork (N=1160)	Data collection



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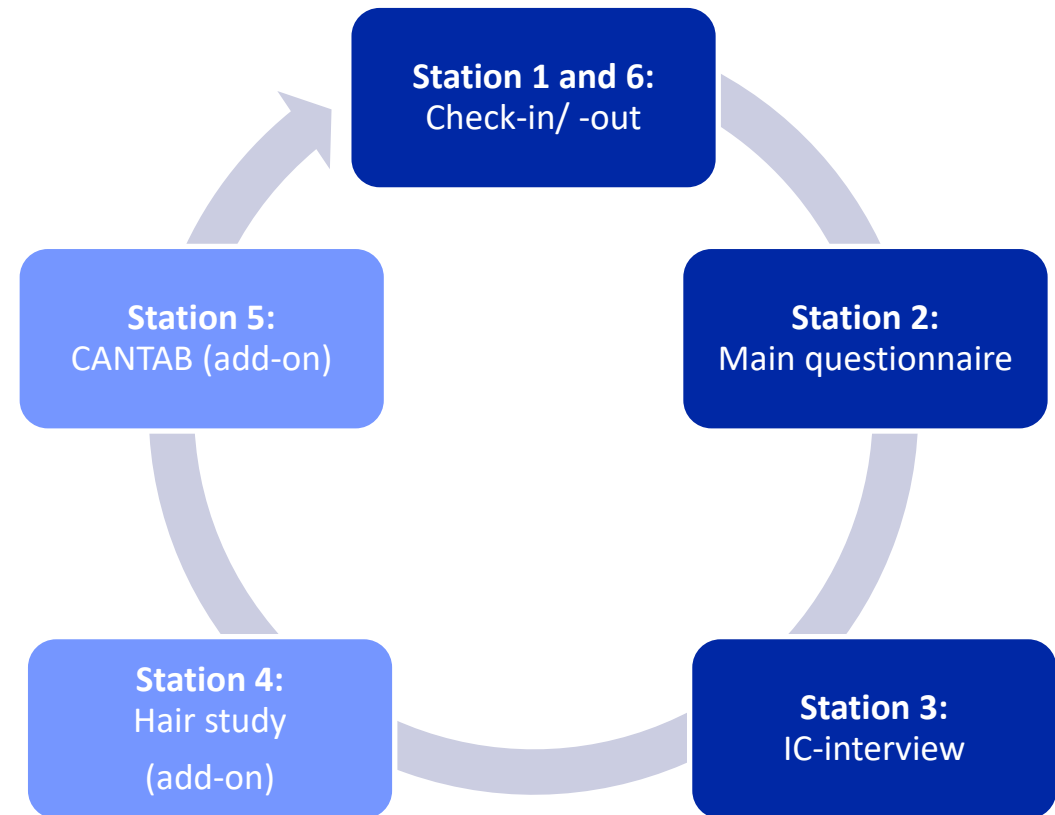


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2. Survey settings

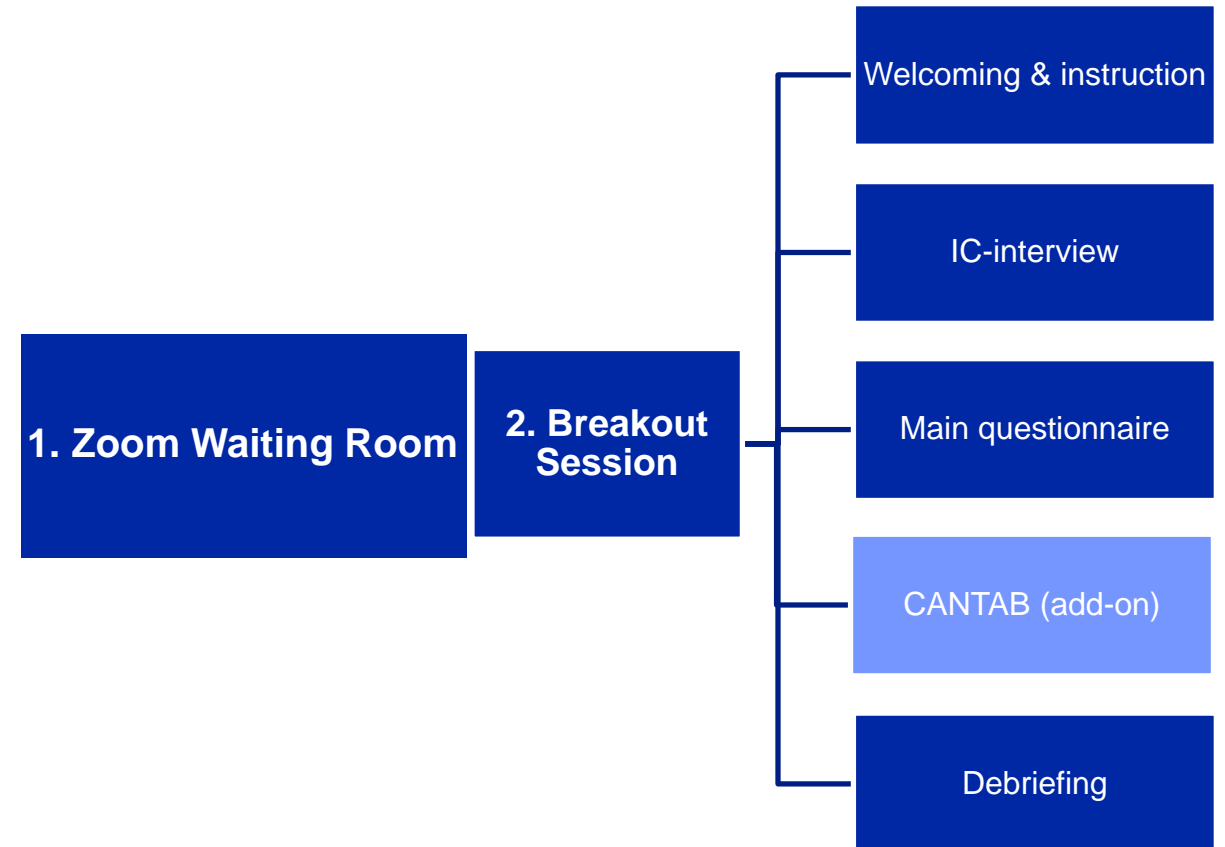
Survey settings – lab version

- Lab-based CASI survey at DeSciL ETH Zurich
 - 36 cubicles with computer workstation
 - Round tour with 4-6 stations
 - Main questionnaire (CASI survey) ~ 60 min.
 - Optional add-ons with hair sampling and cognitive testing (CANTAB) (Quednow/Shanahan)
 - Appointments in total from Mon-Fri between 14:00 and 21:30 (last appointment at 19:00), Saturdays from 11-15:30
 - Compensation doubled (CHF 150 lab-based survey + CHF 50-80 for add-ons in the lab)
 - 989 lab-based interviews



Survey settings – online setting

- Online survey setting with online identification & instructions on Zoom
 - Alternative option to lower threshold for participation
 - Close online guidance by survey staff
 - Consent procedure before the start of the questionnaire
 - Optional add-on cognitive testing (CANTAB) (Quednow/Shanahan)
 - Requires suitable equipment (min. tablet/laptop)
 - CHF 100 for online survey (+ CHF 40 for add-on study)
 - 174 online interviews





Survey settings: Typical problems and how to deal with them...

- Abstract planning of the online format → start two weeks later / electronical signature
- Preparation of work plan → jumper (in main survey phase), additional support from student intern
- Main survey phase: many finished questionnaire at the same time → different organisation of the IC-interview
- Sufficient available dates → from May onwards, constant adjustment of the strategy: enough appointments, also not excessive / on different days + extra days + partly longer shifts
- High no-show rate → online made more popular



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3. Collaborative projects (add-ons) on site



Collaborative projects (add-ons) on site

Data collection directly after the main survey:

- Hair sampling (B. Quednow/L. Shanahan)
 - Hair sample collection completed for 886 participants
 - Quick questionnaire and taking two hair strands
 - Usually only for lab participants
- Cognitive tests (CANTAB*; B. Quednow/L. Shanahan)
 - Neuropsychological testing on a computer in the lab or online on own tablet/laptop/PC
 - 22 minutes
 - N=1050

= *Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery (CANTAB)*



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4. Recruitment organisation



Recruitment organisation

Reminders:

- Sending reminders by SMS and e-mail
 - First reminder on 7 March by e-mail
 - Last reminder on 27 June by SMS

Recruitment (via phone/SMS/e-mail):

- Recruitment in online shift started from the end of March (first only W8-participants)
- Recruitment shifts from 4 April to 24 June, Mon-Fri between 10:00-20:00
- Then reduced recruitment list with just under 100 participants
- Use of 4 mobile phones from the end of April
- The aim was to reach everyone! (in case of need via contact person/social media/second letter)
- Recruitment bonus for fieldwork staff (CHF 5/ from June on CHF 20)



Recruitment: Typical problems and how to deal with them...

- Preparation of recruitment lists → manual redistribution / fewer staff from June onwards
- Ghosting → several attempts from Apr-July (phone, SMS, mail + social media, rarely also by letter)
- Adjusting the recruitment strategy → Adaptation of recruitment list / show flexibility / balance between regular contacting and becoming to insistent



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5. Conclusions



Conclusions (I)

What did we do right?

- Continuous address maintenance helpful (birthday cards, mailing and address service of the post office)
- Good organisation before and during the survey
- 2 different survey settings (online flexible alternative)
- motivated staff + good cooperation in fieldwork management (good in a team of two) & with DeSciL
- We also had a bit of luck 😊
- Survey strategy & persistent recruitment



Conclusions (II)

What have we learned?

- Use several channels & keep on going!
- Adapt your strategies continuously!
- Clear communication is important!



Conclusions (III)

What could still be improved?

- If possible, apply even earlier targeted case management!
- If possible, use telephone number with possible callback!
- If possible, call from mobile phone number instead of landline number!
- Try to conduct even more interviews in prime interview time!



Thank you for listening!...

... any questions?