

RESTORASI

Building Resilience and Addressing Climate
Change Harms in Indonesia

Research Methods (That Are “Fit For
Purpose”)

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Objectives

- RESTORASI contemplates a shared and inclusive vision of justice in society, where people are heard, and opinions are valued, ensuring a place for women, disabled people and Indigenous people, where climate change harms are identified, responses to climate change harms are formulated, and climate change harms, and climate change harm is repaired.
- RESTORASI will leverage the experience of a distinguished, multidisciplinary team of international experts to share and build a deep understanding of climate change harms and the use of restorative justice techniques to address those harms.
- RESTORASI will use collaborative and inclusive research ethics and research design to develop new knowledge, building the skills of academic partners, policymakers and stakeholders.
- RESTORASI will generate new knowledge that will provide evidence and tools to enable women, people with disability and Indigenous people to participate in and inform decisions that concern climate change and its impacts.

What am I doing here?

I am a white, middle-aged male from Australia. My father was a Dutch colonial, born in Batavia in 1931. His mother traced her heritage back to the First Fleet. *I am the direct descendant of colonial oppressors.*

I have never experienced racism. I have never experienced sexism. I have lived a privileged life. A very privileged life.

I am an Australian lawyer who at different times has specialised in intellectual property, constitutional law, disability law and human rights.

Not environmental law. Not restorative justice.

I am participating in a research project about climate change in Indonesia that aims to generate new knowledge and data with women, disabled people and Indigenous people. It is concerned with environmental law and restorative justice.

I don't speak Bahasa Indonesia.

In other words, *I am particularly poorly qualified to conduct the research that is required in this Project.*

How can I fix that?

Surround yourself with great people!

Careful, ethical research design that is fit for purpose

How can I make sure that my biases (whether conscious or unconscious) and my privileges (whether I can identify them, or not) do not prevent me from leading a project that will produce high quality data and outcomes that will help us advance climate justice and climate action?

The answer is with **careful, ethical research design and methodologies that are fit for purpose.**

To that end, for this Project I have recommended the following methods:

1. Focus groups using nominal group technique.
2. Qualitative interviews, analysed using NVIVO theme identification software.

Focus groups using nominal group technique

A focus group is a group of people selected by reference to a particular criterion or criteria (women, Indigenous people, disabled people) who are invited to focus on a particular question.

Our question is: what are the most significant climate change challenges facing your community (in East Java, South Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara)?

This is an open-ended question. We don't know the answer to it. Even if there is literature addressing this issue, we still record what our groups will tell us.

To co-generate data, we will deploy “nominal group technique”.

Nominal group technique is a decision-making and problem-solving process that has been used in thousands of projects for over fifty years.

NGT has been used in research projects on the following topics:

- Mapping research gaps for sustainable forest management (in the Matang mangrove forest in Malaysia) based on the nominal group technique (Huge et al., 2023).
- Consensus on Prioritisation of Actions for Reducing the Environmental Impact of a Large Tertiary Hospital: Application of the Nominal Group Technique (Davies et al., 2023).
- The Nominal Group Technique (NGT) as a Tool for Facilitating Pan-Disability Focus Groups and as a New Method for Quantifying Changes in Qualitative Data (Olsen, 2019).
- Local public policy-formulating process with participation for natural resource and environmental management (Masawat and Roongtawanreongsri, 2021).
- Environmental Equity and Public Participation (Hampton, 1999).
- Increasing Critical Thinking Using Nominal Group Technique: A Classroom Action Research (Denius and Lintang Sari, 2021).

How does nominal group technique (NGT) work?

- People are asked an open-ended question that they can answer because of their membership of a group or because they have specialist knowledge.
- People are asked to provide a list of responses to the question (we will ask for five to seven each).
- The lists of individually-identified responses are compiled into a long list. Duplicate items are removed and concepts are clarified.
- The composite list is then published to the group. Members of the group then vote or rank their top (five to seven) items in the list.
- The result is a ranked agenda of solutions that the people in the group think are important.

Why NGT? Because ...

- It provides for more balanced participation between group members.
- It has been found to produce responses of high quality.
- Requiring participants to record their ideas silently and independently before a group discussion takes place has been found to increase the number of solutions a group generates.
- It is fast, inexpensive, and easy (enabling *co-generation* of data).
- It strips out confirmation bias: the data comes from the people themselves.
- Once the agenda is produced, it is straightforward to construct questions from the solutions produced.
- Then you use the identified themes as headings in the analysis.

Qualitative interviews

- A different way to generate data: you can learn a lot from a person if you take the time to talk to them, preferably until they run out of things to say.
- What do you talk about? You want to avoid controlling the conversation and avoid *confirmation bias* in selecting what to talk about.
- The answer is to take the items generated from the focus group/NGT work and then take the (top) solutions in the ranked list and then ask people to elaborate on these solutions (if they were members of the group) and to address the ranked solutions (if they were not members of the original group)
- To avoid *selection bias*, you take the transcripts of the interviews, de-identify the participants, join them together, and let “theme identification software” like N-Vivo review the transcripts and identify the themes.
- Then you use the identified themes as headings in the analysis.

Questions to consider

- Are these research methods appropriate for discovering the concerns of women about climate change harms in East Java/South Sulawesi/East Nusa Tenggara?
- Are these research methods appropriate for discovering the concerns of disabled people about climate change harms in East Java/South Sulawesi/East Nusa Tenggara?
- Are these research methods appropriate for discovering the concerns of Indigenous people about climate change harms in East Java/South Sulawesi/East Nusa Tenggara?
- Do they address the questions and issues raised by all of the Workshop participants?