2ⁿᵈ International Conference

Hard-to-Reach

Applied Research and Data Collection Methods with Hidden, Marginal and Excluded Populations

21-22 August 2025

University of Oxford, Nuffield College

Call for Papers

In collaboration with

unicef
for every child

Call for Papers
2nd International Conference
Hard-to-Reach:
Applied Research and Data Collection Methods with Hidden, Marginal, and Excluded Populations

Nuffield College at the University of Oxford, in partnership with the UNICEF is delighted to host the 2nd International Conference on **Hard-to-Reach Populations: Applied Research and data Collection Methods with Hidden, Marginal, and Excluded Populations** on Thursday, 21st to Friday, 22nd August 2025 at Nuffield College, Oxford, UK.

We welcome submissions from international academics, researchers, policymakers, activists, practitioners, early-career researchers, postgraduate students, and other underrepresented groups in academic conferences.

This conference is part of the Nuffield CESS–UNICEF ongoing collaboration, which includes the organization of the annual course on Applied Research Methods with Hidden, Marginal, and Excluded Populations. The course will be held the same week, from Monday, 18th to Thursday, 21st of August 2025. Former students of the course are particularly encouraged to submit papers.

Convenors:

- Ray Duch (University of Oxford)
- Andrea Rossi (UNICEF)

Conference Themes and Objectives

The conference will focus on promoting robust qualitative and quantitative research and data collection methods for hidden, marginal, and excluded populations and explore the latest advancements in defining methodological strategies for data collection and analysis.

Key topics that may be discussed include:

- Advanced and basic data collection. estimation and sampling techniques
- Innovation and use of technology in reaching marginalized populations
- Participatory research methods
- Combining qualitative and quantitative methods
- Ethical considerations for conducting research with marginalized populations

The goal of the conference is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration between academics, researchers, practitioners, activists, and other critical thinkers to promote innovative ideas and new perspectives on the challenges of conducting research with hidden and marginalized populations.

Ethical Guidelines

Given the sensitive nature of research involving hidden, marginalized, and excluded populations, the conference places a significant emphasis on ethical considerations. Submissions must include a discussion of ethical frameworks used in research design,

Proposed Panels

1. Innovations in Data Collection and Sampling Hard-to-Reach Populations
This panel will explore new and creative approaches for data collection and sampling hidden, marginalized, and excluded groups. Topics might include respondent-driven sampling, network-based approaches, and the use of digital tools to reach hard-to-access populations.

2. Estimating the Magnitude: Advanced Techniques for Estimating Hidden Populations
This panel will explore innovative estimation techniques aimed at accurately quantifying the size of hidden or hard-to-reach populations. Topics might include Bayesian estimation, capture-recapture methods, small area estimation, and the integration of administrative data with survey data. Presenters will focus on overcoming the challenges of data sparsity and measurement errors, highlighting case studies from various fields including health, migration, and social services.

3 Ethical Challenges in Researching Vulnerable Populations
This panel will focus on the unique ethical issues that arise when researching vulnerable populations, including obtaining informed consent, balancing risk and benefit, and ensuring data privacy. Case studies will be used to highlight best practices and common pitfalls.

4. Mixed-Methods Approaches: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Research with Marginalized Populations
This session will delve into how combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies can provide richer and more nuanced insights into the experiences of marginalized populations. Presenters will discuss the challenges and benefits of integrating these methods in research.

5. Technology and Innovation in Data Collection
This panel will showcase the latest innovations in data collection, including the use of mobile technology, social media platforms, and remote sensing to gather data from hard-to-reach populations. Presenters will highlight case studies and discuss the practical and ethical implications of these methods.

6. Participatory Research Methods: Giving Voice to Marginalized Communities
This panel will examine participatory approaches to research, where marginalized populations are not only subjects but also co-creators of knowledge. Presenters will discuss how to empower communities, include them in the research process, and ensure that research benefits those being studied.

7. Applying Research to Policy and Practice: Bridging the Gap for Marginalized Groups
The final panel will focus on how research can be translated into actionable policy and practice to address the needs of hidden, marginalized, and excluded populations. Presenters will discuss challenges in ensuring that research informs decision-making and improves outcomes for these groups.

Proposing New Panels

In addition to the panels listed above, participants are also encouraged to propose new panel ideas. To propose a panel, please submit a title and a brief description of the panel theme along with suggestions for at least three different papers that would fit under the proposed topic. Panel proposals should focus on innovative research methods and approaches related to hidden, marginalized, and excluded populations.

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: 28th February 2025
- Decision date: 15th April 2025

Note: Travel and accommodation costs are not covered for this event, and participants are responsible for making their own arrangements.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit a title not exceeding 50 words and an abstract of approximately 180 words. As this is a methods-focused conference, the abstract should detail the methodology used, highlight any challenges encountered, and discuss the potential implications and future possibilities. Submissions must include a discussion on how ethical challenges were addressed. Once your proposal is accepted by the conference committee, you will be asked to submit the presentation and if possible the full article before the conference.

Use the following Submission form : **bit.ly/H2R2025**