

Dear {NAME},

Hope you are well! {Describe how I received their contacts; how I know their work.}

I am a doctoral student investigating the data practices of social scientists in Nairobi to understand their perspectives on what counts as ethical research. What kinds of legal, social, technical infrastructures exist that have shaped or are perceived to be needed to support such ethical data practices? I'm especially interested in looking at qualitative data, which has been less of the conversation in discussions about Open Data, and how those working with communities to conduct fieldwork are thinking about their data and data practices. How does opening up research datasets as part of a move towards Open Science sit together with concerns for data privacy, security, surveillance? I've included a research brief in case you are interested.

I would love to chat with you based on [insert reason for wanting to interview this person – their work in government, support of Open Data movement, etc.]. I am especially interested in better understand issues related to [insert the topics I anticipate we will talk about, e.g. IP, data security, politics of servers, academic incentive structures, etc.]. I am happy to share the interview guide in advance of our meeting.

Thank you kindly for your consideration and I look forward to hearing back from you!

Cheers,

Angela Okune  
PhD Candidate, UC Irvine Anthropology  
[www.angelaokune.me](http://www.angelaokune.me)