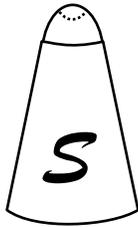


COMPASS

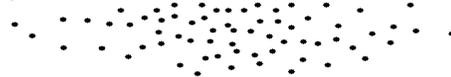
Communication Portal for Accessing Social Statistics



The problem with NSI's

- Bureaucratic
- Legalistic
- Obscurely organized

... They are so not like us.



➡ The purpose of this intervention is to discuss why collaboration with NSI's can be conflictual, and to suggest a path to resolve the dispute, based on the experience of FORS.

➡ Please take what follows with a grain of salt.

...and don't tell if you know someone from an NSI ;)

➡ Bureaucratic; works with rules, no consideration for the individual (Max Weber)

➡ Legalistic: always refers to some law or rule. No action without regulations

➡ Obscurely organized: Even if there is an organizational chart, no one knows who can answer your question. Dealing with them feels like being a ball in a

➡ pool game.

COMPASS

The problem with researchers

- Chaotic
- Irresponsible
- Harassing

... They are so not like us.

- ➡ Please don't tell if you know researchers or someone from an Archive ;)
- ➡ Chaotic. Confused and informal, as was the universe before the intervention of god. **They don't follow rules, ask the wrong person**
- ➡ Irresponsible: Why should we trust them with sensitive data ? They move from one institution to the other, or are not even academically legitimate. **Who are these guys ?**
- ➡ Harassing: They are never satisfied with our answers, **they keep asking questions we can't answer**. You throw them out of the door, the come back through the window..

COMPASS

They are barbarians

- **A few centuries of cultural misunderstandings**
- **Avoiding military action**

- ➔ These people are barbarians. They use some strange jargon, they use SPSS / B.O./ Oracle (fill in whatever suits you)
They don't talk like us. (Barbarian: from the Greeks: their language sounds like "bor-bor").
- ➔ Perfect definition of cultural misunderstandings.
- ➔ Dealing with it can be done through military action, but that solution is not always welcome and might be counter-productive.
- ➔ The situation has occurred several times in the last centuries. How has it been dealt with ?

COMPASS

Missionary; spread the Word

- **Convert the chief if you want to convince the tribe**
- **Mistakes that will land you in the caldron**

- ➔ The crusades have given way to a softer way of convincing people to change their beliefs or behaviors.
- ➔ You must convert the chief. And also the rest of the management board. Leaflets, seminars...**Top-down**
- ➔ NSI's are the natural hunting field of consultants and other missionaries. They have been told fairytales before, they are warned. (Don't plan a pointless meeting, and don't forget to invite that peculiar fairy who's veto would kill the project). **We've seen consultants before**

COMPASS

Ethnography: describe

- Draw a map, learn their language
- Live with them
- Make friends, get an informant

- ➔ This intervention is about using the knowledge gathered while dealing with remote populations
Bronislaw Malinowski's participant observation
- ➔ You need to draw a true map: who is in charge of disseminating THAT dataset ? (There might be an address like « info@nsi.org », but you want to know who is REALLY in charge). **Sometimes no one**
- ➔ Live with them. No miracle: it's an insider's job, that is why ethnologists go and live with the population they study. **Our office at the FSO**
- ➔ You need informants: You need a trusting relationship with people who might not appear on the organizational chart, but will do the actual work. You want them to bond with you, knowing you are perceived as an alien in the organization. **Bottom-up**
Nigel Barley, The Innocent Anthropologist

COMPASS

Anthropology: get mixed

- Give before receiving
- They will use you. Make it worth it
- What values do our separate (and conflicting) worlds cherish ?

➔ What you will mostly want is something that people would otherwise not part from. Engaging in a give-receive relationship is essential when you want to maintain a strong bond.
Marcel Mauss “The Gift”

➔ They will use you : **“tell the management we need a better rule”**
We need meta-data, what can I give them in exchange, or how can I initiate the exchange ? **Codebooks**
I want them to send me researchers, how can I make that attractive to them ? **Order form**

➔ Specificity of scientist’s activity. **Our tools show the way we think**
Bruno Latour, “Laboratory Life”

Value scales (Economies of Worth, Luc Boltanski & Laurent Thevenot)
<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8182.html> conflict management **contract**
rather no, penalty yes