

ROYAL HOLLOWAY TRAVEL AWARD 2018-2019 REPORT

I am mostly grateful for the Royal Holloway Travel Award, that has afforded me the opportunity to undertake research fieldwork in Nigeria, with a view to exploring healthwork among people living with HIV. The travel award has helped in two ways: first, it enables me to defray the cost of my transportation within the interview location, and second, it enables me to reimburse the transportation cost of participants to the interview venue. My research voyage started on 1st February 2018 to Nigeria where I conducted 32 interviews with HIV participants. In the first week, interviews were conducted with 10 participants who talked extensively about the diagnosis, treatment history, problem of stigmatisation, marginalisation and exclusion, and wide range of sociological issues such as self, identity, corporeality/embodiment and biographical temporality. These first set of 10 interviews enabled me to gauge and map out the most pressing issues to the participants and the kind of healthwork they undertaken in everyday practice of HIV management. The narratives in participants' interviews further help to unearth areas and issues that have either been covered, or not discussed, but relevant to my research. Understanding these shortcomings in these interviews enabled me to further recruit and interview additional 15 participants in the second week of the research. To my chagrin, what was elicited from the additional participants are interestingly new that are only beyond the remit of my research but are central to the shaping and reshaping of the research outcome. These new insights gave me an impetus to modify one of my research questions to accommodate these new developments in participants' narratives. In a quest for more elicitation and new insights, another 7 participants were recruited and interviewed in the third week. However, having interviewed 32 participants, the researcher deliberately stopped further interview of because new/fresh ideas and insights did not emerge from the additional 7 interviews.

Following the conclusion of the interview, the subsequent weeks was a busy moment where bulk of the Interviews were transcribed verbatim. In all, what I observed about the participants was that they are "experts" in HIV management, and their expertise produced a great of interesting narratives that are germane and fundamental to my net stage of the research process, which is coding and analysis.

To conclude, what I have achieved in this interview project in the context of recruitment, interrogation and probing of participants would not have been possible without generous grant from Royal Holloway travel award. My research trip was fantastic and beneficial to my doctoral education at Royal Holloway. Once again, I am grateful for Royal Holloway travel award for making this interview project, research experience and fieldwork possible.