
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Creative Entrepreneurship In Berlin - Understanding The Character Of Place

Creator:James Cunningham

Principal Investigator: James Cunningham

Data Manager: James Cunningham

Affiliation: Robert Gordon University

Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

Template: AHRC Template

ORCID iD: 0000-0002-3856-6611

Project abstract:

Historically, 'the town' is a product of social living, the embodiment of a social way of being. However, in the modern day, the city has become more of a pre-planned entity, where policy imperatives on urban entrepreneurialism often attract criticism of economic abstraction over organic spontaneity. This leads to claims that cities have lost their distinctive character, as they each strive for and compete over goals of economic boosterism.

This project looks to develop a more optimistic view, one which foregrounds the role of the creative sectors in our cities. It investigates how the character of the city can be maintained through the operations of independent cultural producers: independent galleries, artistic retailers, creative studios, etc. This research investigates the role of independent entrepreneurial outfits in Berlin, Germany, as one of the few cities credited with maintaining a distinctive social character in the modern urban landscape.

ID: 188857

Start date: 01-05-2026

End date: 31-10-2026

Last modified: 23-10-2025

Copyright information:

The above plan creator(s) have agreed that others may use as much of the text of this plan as they would like in their own plans, and customise it as necessary. You do not need to credit the creator(s) as the source of the language used, but using any of the plan's text does not imply that the creator(s) endorse, or have any relationship to, your project or proposal

Creative Entrepreneurship In Berlin - Understanding The Character Of Place - Initial DMP

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?

This work does not involve the use of children, animals, or vulnerable parties in participation, and therefore the perceived ethical risks are low.

The main risk associated with the work is around the potential disclosure of private, identifiable, or competitively sensitive information from participants. To minimise this risk, the principles of Informed Consent (with each participants made fully aware of the research intentions, provided and acknowledging an information sheet on the work, including the future management and use of data), Confidentiality in the data collection and analysis stages (involving the removal and anonymising of identifiable information), and Special Consideration given to any particular circumstance of the participants (though none are anticipated as this research deals with an independent, adult population).

Creative Entrepreneurship In Berlin - Understanding The Character Of Place - Detailed DMP

Data Summary

1. Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?

Qualitative interview data with key informants and a purposefully selected sample of independent creative/cultural industry workers in Berlin. This data will allow the researcher to access the individual and subjective perceptions of the participants as they describe their entrepreneurial activities and how this interacts with the world around them.

Data will be initial audio recorded, later transcribed (which includes the amendment of any inadvertently identifiable information), and stored privately on secure university drives designated for the stage of research data sharing. This data will subsequently be deleted upon the completion of the project's objectives.

Data Collection

2. Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution's data support teams may need to support the project

Qualitative semi-structured interviews (lasting up to one-hour in length) will be conducted with a series of Key Informants ($n \sim 5$), participants from a previous study on similar topics ($n = 15$) and a series of new participants unique to this project ($n \sim 15$).

The Principal Investigator is widely experienced in qualitative data collection and analysis, particularly in settings with non-native English speakers (such as Berlin, Germany).

Further, the PI conducted a previous study (2019), from which the 15 participants will be re-approached, building a familiarity with the work.

The PI is responsible for the ethical storage and management of primary data from this research study. This follows the Research Data Management Policy of Robert Gordon University, and includes the provision that all data will be stored, during the active stages of the research activities, on the University's research data facilities, and not stored privately by the PI or any other party associated with the research.

There are no planned collaborators for this research work, and therefore no data will be shared externally to the University.

Short-term Data Storage

3. How will the data be stored in the short term?

In line with Robert Gordon University's Research Data Management Policy, during the active research stages of this project, all data (audio recording and text transcription) will be stored in the University's research data facilities. This is a secure drive on the University's internal server network. No data from this project will be stored on a personal drive, personal device, home computer, etc.

3a What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?

Utilising the University's secure research data facilities means that the files and data are backed-up during the normal server back-up processes. Arrangements will be made to ensure these back-up processes are in place at the time of data storage.

Long-term Data Storage

4. How the data will be stored in the long term?

Data which has been made confidential and anonymised will be securely stored up to the point of completion of the research projects objectives and beyond - aligned to British Academy conditions for freely accessible data. While the data will not be actively used on the project after a period of around 3 years - after times of data analysis and relevant dissemination, once the project is complete, all anonymised primary data will continue to be stored

Any data collected is stored on RGU devices during the active stages of the project, and stored longer term on the 'R: Drive', hosted in university servers - this is a designated research drive backed-up daily. Anonymised data will also be published on Robert Gordon University's Research Data Repository. The dataset metadata will be openly available with instructions for further controlled release of the data on request.

During this time, all primary data will be stored only on the University's secure research data management facilities, and not held on personal drives, devices, or home computers, etc.

Prior to full anonymisation, no data will be made publicly available.

4a. Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?

On Robert Gordon University's research data management facilities, as this is the home institution of the PI and there are no other collaborators on the project. This also represents the most secure and regularly backed-up location.

4b. How long will it be stored for and why?

Data which has been made confidential and anonymised will be securely stored up to the point of completion of the research projects objectives and beyond - aligned to British Academy conditions for freely accessible data. While the data will not be actively used on the project after a period of around 3

years - after times of data analysis and relevant dissemination, once the project is complete, all anonymised primary data will continue to be stored

4c. Costs of storage - why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR)

Data storage is provided by the PI's host institution and will not incur any additional costs.

Data Sharing

5. How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others

Data will be used to generate interpretivist findings from the work, in line with other qualitative research projects in the same field. In such a way, the data will provide both theoretical and practical contributions to the field, without the need to disclose or betray any issues of confidentiality or anonymity.

5a. How the data will enhance the area and how it could be used in the future?

The data itself will not be used to enhance the area. Instead, any contributions and value to the field will be made through the contributions of research publications and output.

5b. Releasing the data - advise when you will be releasing and justify if not releasing in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how these groups will be informed?

Data will be collected under the assurances of anonymity and confidentiality, other than for the purposes. As part of the informed consent procedures, data will only be used for the purposes of research dissemination and publication of interpretivist findings.

5c. Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

After completion of the current project, there will be no update of the data set. Any new data will be collected under the new plans of a future project.

5d. Will the data be open or will you charge for it? Justify if charging to access the data

The primary data will neither be open or charged for. However, all efforts will be made to ensure

subsequent publication is with academic outputs for which Gold-level Open Access is possible.

As noted in Section 4, any data collected is stored on RGU devices during the active stages of the project, and stored longer term on the 'R: Drive', hosted in university servers - this is a designated research drive backed-up daily. Anonymised data will also be published on Robert Gordon University's Research Data Repository. The dataset metadata will be openly available with instructions for further controlled release of the data on request.

There will be no charge for any data provided on request.

5e. Financial requirements of sharing - include full justification in the JoR

As noted in section 5d, there will be no charge for any data provided on request.

Anonymised data will also be published on Robert Gordon University's Research Data Repository. The dataset metadata will be openly available with instructions for further controlled release of the data on request.

Ethical and Legal Considerations

6a. Any legal and ethical considerations of collecting the data

Data will only be collected with explicit subject consent. All management and storage of primary research data generated from the project will be in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018) and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR). Each data subject will be made aware of this prior to volunteering informed consent.

6b. Legal and ethical considerations around releasing and storing the data - anonymity of any participants, following promises made to participants

While there is no legal requirements of anonymity given the nature of the subjects and the work, for the benefit of the study research subjects informed consent will only be on the basis of confidentiality in the research data and analysis. This will then mean confidentiality and anonymity of research subjects and participants will have to be ensured and maintained from the point of data collection onwards.