

# OUTLINE

- The 'Self' as 'Insider' in Research
- What are the benefits of the 'insider'?
- What are the challenges?
- The risks of my 'insider' status
- Conclusion – Key Lessons Learned

# The 'Self' as 'Insider' in Research

- Background before 'refugeehood'
- How & why an 'interviewee' & 'researcher'?

*Empowered/insider elite, provide a 'voice'*

*To enable access/recruitment*

*Data gathering & analysis: instruments, cultural sensibilities*

*Professional/career development opps*

- Commissioned research
- Coordinator: Research, Policy & Engagement

# What are the benefits of the 'insider'?

- Access & recruitment': know the networks, 'one of us'
- Trust: consent and anonymity
- Knowledge production and 'voice': 'speak my language', lost in translation'
- 'Positionality' & 'shifting positionality'
- Data protection

# What are the challenges?

- 'Insider' – being a dominant 'voice'
- Coping with trauma
- Disclosure of 'illegality'
- 'Access and recruitment' – 'snowballing', courtesy
- Consent and anonymity
- knowledge production and 'voice'
- 'Positionality'
- Data protection

How do my 'insider' status compound the liminal social status of refugees?

- 'Gate-keeping'
- 'My politics' Vs 'their politics'
- Prioritising safety over interviewees' wishes

## Conclusion – Key Lessons Learned

- Participation: a space and mechanism for claims making, resistance and empowerment
- Data Protection: consent to whom and for what
- 'Researcher power & vulnerability' – meeting/dealing with expectations, trauma & 'illegality'
- Take nothing for granted– tread cautiously
- 'Positionality' – shifting, 'insider' within and without'

*“I had a call from X this afternoon asking how Y, the Z national, a board member of the Z Community Organisation and a member of the Z focus group, had in his possession a list of addresses of the new Z arrivals.*

*I immediately told X that I had shown Y the addresses yesterday afternoon because he assured me that the Z Community Organisation needed them to make contact \*\*\*\*\**

*I then took Y by his word and in good faith and \*\*\*\*\*allowed Y to take a photo of the page containing the addresses.*

*X was extremely concerned about this and the implications \*\*\*\*of this breach of data protection.*

*I apologised profusely and said that I had done this with the very best intentions not realising that Y had misled me into giving away this information and that I had truly believed that we were helping towards connecting the established Z community”*