

Co-production

in modern slavery and human trafficking research

Co-production is about **sharing power** and **working in equitable partnerships**, from idea generation through to research design, data collection, analysis, write-up, and dissemination of findings.

This infographic offers a pathway through the research cycle highlighting many ways in which ethical principles of co-production can be embedded within projects across four distinct phases.

Connecting with research partners

Create space for partnership building

Resist the urge to over plan.
Explore shared values and divergent agendas to identify areas of alignment.
Be clear about the limits of available resource to set realistic expectations.

Plan for power-sharing

Transparently discuss funding models, distribution of roles and responsibilities.
Identify methods of regular communication.
Agree how key project decisions will be made.

Explore how your ethical practices align

What do ethics review processes look like?
How do safeguarding policies and procedures compare?
How will any inconsistencies be addressed?

Adopt trauma-informed principles from the outset

Centre an assets-focussed understanding of lived experience.
Prioritise safety and support without undermining agency.
Plan for positive project legacies.



Assembling research teams

Adopt recruitment strategies that promote diversity

Design inclusive job descriptions using accessible language.
Ensure time to circulate opportunities beyond your usual networks.
Consider diverse candidate profiles and be willing to share positionalities.

Agree ways of working

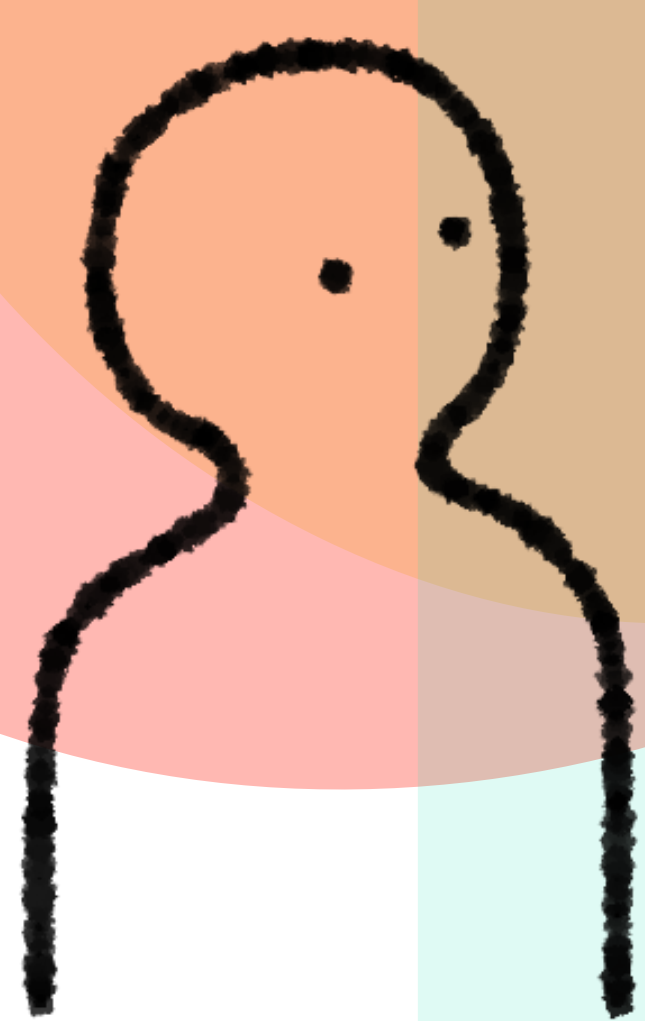
Establish clear project timelines and agree key delivery milestones.
Discuss expectations for co-working and agree roles and responsibilities.
Set regular check-ins on accessibility and support needs.

Resource onboarding of team members

Assess training needs of all team members and conduct training where possible.
Ensure access to essential resources (e.g. publications, equipment, working space).

Ensure safe and equitable co-working

Check accessibility of planned working practices.
Discuss how trauma-informed principles apply in practice.
Offer all team members access to professional trauma-informed support.



Co-delivering ethical data collection

Plan for secure and timely reimbursement

Offer participants a choice of flexible payment options to suit their circumstance.
Be transparent about the limitations of various routes for reimbursement.
Share your organisation's payment policies and their limitations with all team members.

Budget for participant access to wraparound support

Offer access to at least one trauma-informed support session during the project.
Account for translator/interpreter costs where possible.
Be clear about resources available to enable participation (e.g. childcare or data costs).

Onboard participants with care

Employ recruitment strategies that promote diversity and inclusion.
Provide an accessible Participant Information Sheet.
Offer an information session with interpreters to facilitate informed consent.

Enable participant voice and choice

Transparently discuss project protocols (e.g. distress, withdrawal, disclosure)
Share plans for secure data storage and identity protection measures.
Devise a clear timeline with participant feedback loops.



Sharing research findings

Engage with participants pre-publication

Check in with participants to confirm data accuracy (e.g. use of quotes).
Share dissemination plans and ask for feedback.

Ensure credit where it is due

Recognise researcher co-authorship appropriately.
Acknowledge the contributions of participants with consent.

Ensure research findings are accessible

Prioritise Open Access options for academic publication.
Present findings in a range of formats for varied audiences.
Consider reports, policy briefs, blogposts, podcasts, webinars and creative outputs.

Maximise the reach of research outputs

Share findings widely to limit research duplication.
Agree a dissemination strategy for research that is safe and empowering for all involved.



This infographic stems from a [research study](#) commissioned by the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy Evidence Centre to understand common ethical issues that arise during modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) research that is co-productive and participatory, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

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