

Workshop: Cross-Perspectives on Building a Foundation of Trust in Fieldwork

Organizers:

Harmonie Klein: PhD student at the University of St Andrews (UK) and co-founder of the *Parlons Terrain* collective

Julie Duboscq: Researcher at the MNHN-CNRS (France) and co-director of the field project, the Macaca Nigra Project (Indonesia; *not in person for the workshop*)

Speakers:

Melissa Berthet: Postdoc student at the University of Milan (Italy) and former *Parlons Terrain* collective member

Caroline Fryns: PhD student at the University of Neuchatel (Switzerland) and co-founder of *Parlons Terrain* collective

Bino Majolo: Professor at the University of Lincoln (UK) and co-director of the Macaca Maura Project (Indonesia)

Julia Ostner: Professor at the University of Göttingen (Germany) and co-director of a field project in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary (Thailand)

Oliver Schülke: Senior Scientist at the University of Göttingen (Germany) and co-director of a field project in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary (Thailand)

Erin Wesling: Research Scientist, DPZ (Germany) and co-director of the Moyon Bafing Chimpanzee Project (Guinea)

Overview:

Fieldwork often takes place in complex contexts, characterized by remoteness, hierarchical structures, and a diversity of actors. Building a solid foundation of trust between directors/managers, researchers, other field actors, and local partners is essential to ensure a safe, ethical, and collaborative working environment.

This half day workshop will bring together the audience, field research station/project directors and researchers using/participating in field station/projects—with substantial field experience and at the initiative of *Parlons Terrain* collective, aiming to improve fieldwork wellbeing and safety for all—for an open discussion on concrete ways to strengthen trust, structured around three complementary axes:

1. **Prevention** – Preparing and sensitizing teams before departure to foster respectful and safe relationships.
2. **Reporting Systems** – Establishing clear, confidential, and accessible mechanisms to raise any concerns or issues in the field.
3. **Actions and Support** – Developing appropriate responses and support mechanisms to assist affected individuals and maintain a climate of trust.

The goal is to share experiences and co-create best practices to promote safe, fair, and supportive field environments. Discussions will address the constraints, challenges, and realities faced by all parties, in a constructive spirit.