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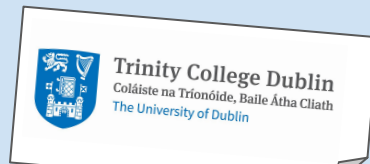
The Earth Is Out There:  
but I'm stuck in quarantine!

Challenges of  
researching **Attitudes Of Irish  
Secondary Students  
Towards Earth Science**  
during a global pandemic!

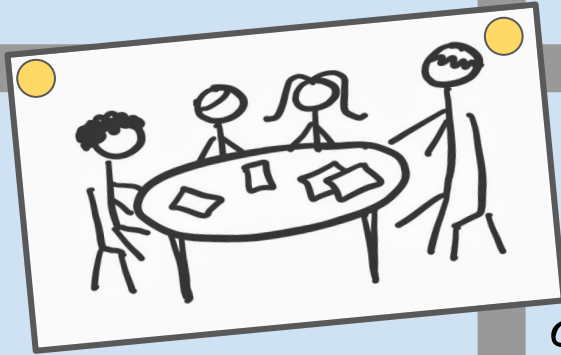
Perhaps we could use this opportunity to share how we're adapting methodologies in this new and very difficult situation.

Like many others, my research has been significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 situation. Managing delays, quarantines, and remote research is part of the process now. My children's voice methodology requires student input on the data before dissemination, but schools are closed and my original ethical approval did not permit online contact with students...

The originally intended version of this paper will be submitted soon (perhaps AGU?), barring further global disasters...



# Ethics



Depending on the project and phase, seeking new ethical approval could take anywhere from hours to months. The impact on participants and data recording & storage are particularly vital issues to address.

# Remote/online methods

Recruitment: Those of us who recruit via schools and other in-person connections have to radically overhaul how to find and contact participants.

Connection: Flexibility and "flow" can be lost when **face-to-face becomes screen-to-screen**, but...

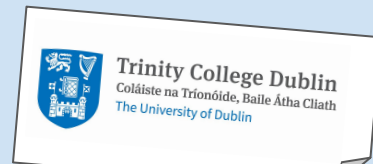
New opportunities: Online research affords the chance to **make new connections, gain new skills, and develop new methods**.

Inclusion: Some will have newly expanded scope to get involved in research, while others will **be left behind** as things move online.

Is "exactly the same, but online" ...  
... the ideal to strive for?  
... a wasted opportunity to expand methodological horizons?  
... practically and philosophically impossible anyway?

# Life

The difficulties in managing research from home are **exacerbated for those already at a disadvantage**: living in small rented homes, in unstable circumstances, juggling caring responsibilities, etc.



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Soon...

and...  
stay safe,  
everyone!

## Writing

... will continue on my PhD thesis, which is written in a creative non-fiction epistolary format. This now includes reflective work on working & writing during a global disaster.

## Student Perspective on Data Analysis

... will now be sought via online research advisory sessions, for which new ethical approval is required

## Future

## Work

... will continue to develop & expand the children's voice methodology in Earth Science research. (For those who are interested in this, see EOS3.1)

## Dissemination

... will hopefully take place more or less as originally planned over the next year, but probably with more virtual/remote presentations. This is something our research group has been considering anyway, to minimise our carbon emissions, so perhaps the expansion of virtual conferences will be a positive offset to all the difficult and challenging aspects!

