Advantages and Limitations of Doing Data Collection Online: In the Context of Researching Perceptions of Uncertainty Among Czech Migrants Living in the UK

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# Abstract

Online qualitative interviews can benefit research by capturing the unfurling of subjectively experienced social phenomena in *real time* during the data collection process. Set against the backdrop of a national lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic and the decision of the UK to leave the European Union, the research project, *Czech migrants living in the UK in the age of uncertainty,* sought to unlock the complex interplay of factors underpinning perception of uncertainties and to enhance understanding of how perceived uncertainties interlink with a sense of belonging, identity, and migration decision-making. To achieve these objectives, I deployed grounded theory because of the unique and unprecedented character of the social phenomena upon which the research is focused. The research project had originally been designed as requiring face-to-face data collection but was altered due to the lockdown. This situation, therefore, caused interruption, redesign of research elements, and amendment of the ethics review documentation which had originally been approved on the basis of in-person data collection. The case study explores how online semi- structured interviews enabled the successful acquisition of data from 43 participants based either in the UK or the Czech Republic during the national lockdown. I reflect on both advantages and limitations of conducting interviews online and draw on the experience to highlight new strategies that may help future online research anticipate and overcome obstacles in the service of achieving research objectives.

# Learning Outcomes

By the end of this case, students should be able to:

* Discuss advantages and benefits of online data collection using semi-structured interviews
* Compare and contrast online and face to face data collection using semi-structured interviews
* State how digital data can be effectively managed and stored
* Develop a strategy for an effective data collection

# Project Overview and Context

The aim of this research was to understand factors underpinning perceptions of uncertainty among Czech migrants living in the UK and to explore how changing and diverse perceptions of uncertainty interconnect with ideas of belonging, identity, and future migration decision-making. According to [Williams and Baláž](#_bookmark28) [(2012)](#_bookmark28), uncertainty is unevenly researched in migration studies and a comprehensive theoretical framework is missing. Thus, from this research, a new theoretical framework will be developed that captures the complex interplay of factors underpinning perceptions of uncertainties. This new framework aims to enhance understanding of how perceived uncertainties interlink with a sense of belonging and migration decision- making.

Brexit is a political event that is unique in British history ([Hobolt, 2016](#_bookmark8)), giving rise to social, political, and

economic manifestations of an unprecedented character. It therefore provides an opportunity to explore how uncertainty might have impacted the lived experience of migrants living in the UK. However, the uncertainty associated with Brexit must be understood in the context of other types of uncertainty linked with austerity, residency rights, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Czech migrants are deployed as a lens to explore how the perceived uncertainties associated with Brexit and COVID-19 have affected the personal and professional lives of migrants living in the UK. Although experiences of Central and Eastern European migrants in the UK have been reviewed in the literature ([Engbersen et al., 2013](#_bookmark6); [Janurová, 2018](#_bookmark9); [Sime et al., 2020](#_bookmark24); [Tyrrell et al.,](#_bookmark27) [2019](#_bookmark27)), the specific experience of Czech migrants and their perspectives toward intra-EU migration and the political uncertainties arising from the EU referendum should not be assumed to follow the same trajectory as other Central and Eastern European migrants.

A qualitative research method was identified as the most appropriate for this study, due to the characteristics of the research questions being addressed. The research is primarily focused on building understanding and insight about how (un)certainty, sense of belonging, and migrant decision-making interconnect. This research objective is elaborated in the research questions regarding the changing and diverse perceptions of uncertainty in the context of Brexit and COVID-19; interlinks between ideas of belonging, identity, and perceived uncertainties; interlinks between migration decision-making and perceived uncertainties; and, finally, overarching interlinks between perceived uncertainties, belonging, identity, and migration decision- making. Additionally, qualitative research enables the researcher to “step into” the lives of others to examine complex and subjectively experienced social situations, thereby aiming to achieve a holistic appreciation of that experience rather than the arguably more reductionist understanding typically associated with quantitative research designs ([2002](#_bookmark17); [Merriam, 1998](#_bookmark16); [Bogdan & Biklen, 1997](#_bookmark3); [Locke et al., 2014](#_bookmark12), [Mason,](#_bookmark13) [1996](#_bookmark13); [Patton, 1990](#_bookmark19); [Schram, 2003](#_bookmark21); [Schwandt, 2000](#_bookmark22)). Thus, a qualitative research method, as an interpretivist epistemological approach where the raw data collected are the words and expressions of the research participants themselves ([Matthews & Ross, 2010](#_bookmark14)), was considered the most appropriate way for documenting and exploring insights of Czech migrants living in the UK in the context of Brexit and COVID-19 uncertainties.

For the method of analysis, I chose Corbin and Strauss’s approach to grounded theory. Grounded theory was identified as the most appropriate method of analysis given the lack of published evidence about the impact of Brexit and COVID-19 uncertainties on the professional and personal lives of migrants living in the UK and the potential consequences of the perceived uncertainties on migrants’ sense of belonging and decision-making.

## Section Summary

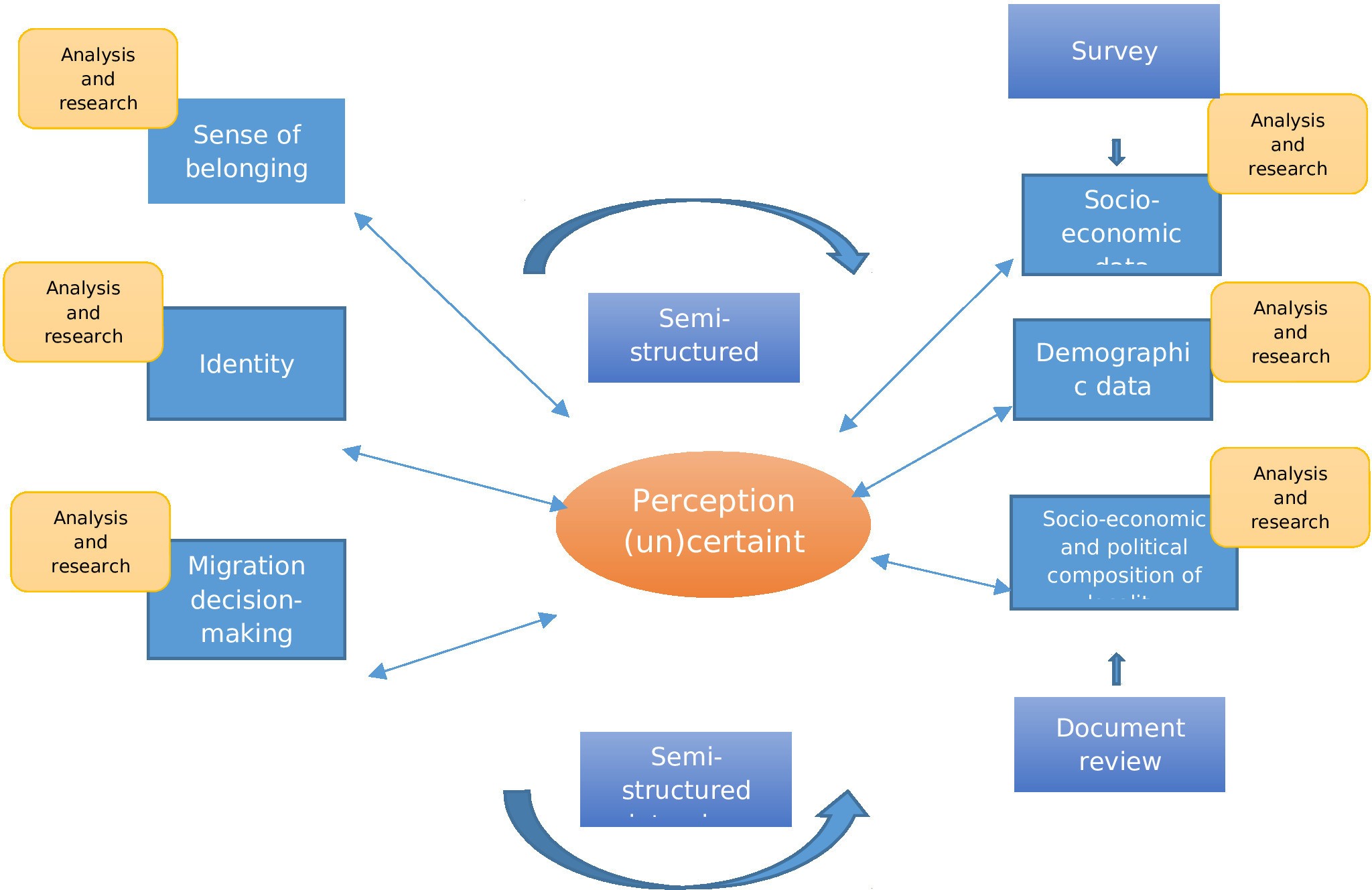
* A key concern of the study was to unlock factors underpinning perceptions of uncertainty and understand how the perceived uncertainties interlink with migrants’ sense of belonging and decision- making.
* This study is based on the qualitative research method, comprising semi-structured interviews, enabling the capture of subjective experiences and emotions regarding perceptions of uncertainties, sense of belonging, and migration decision-making.
* Grounded theory is well suited as the method of analysis given the lack of published evidence about

Brexit and COVID-19 uncertainties.

# Research Design

This case study focuses on a research project incorporating interviews with 43 participants of Czech nationality living in the UK predominantly in two urban and one semi-rural area. There were three key areas that I explored and formally incorporated within the research design. First, I focused on the socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds of the participants. Following this, I collected qualitative data using semi- structured interviews about perceived uncertainties, sense of belonging, identity, and migration decision- making. Finally, I analyzed socioeconomic and demographic data associated with each urban and semi-rural locality to unlock potential interlinks between uncertainty and locality. The first enquiry was well suited to a survey which provided information about the sample. The second enquiry incorporated traditional semi- structured interview, and the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of localities were obtained through a review of published secondary data.

The philosophical stance taken in this research is interpretivist. The qualitative method deployed in the case study is an inductive-based method—a grounded theory, which derives theory from data sources of a qualitative nature ([Birks & Mills, 2015](#_bookmark2)). Other research methods could have been deployed, such as the widely used thematic analysis approach. However, grounded theory, an inductive research method which aims to generate theories explaining social processes or actions through analysis of data from participants that have experienced them ([Corbin & Strauss, 1990](#_bookmark4)), was considered the more appropriate approach for addressing the research objectives. Additionally, grounded theory was chosen because of the potential of this approach for building on existing theory. Through the application of grounded theory, the unique and unprecedented characteristics of the social phenomena explored in the research described here may therefore provide the basis for developing theories on uncertainty, belonging, identity, and migration decision- making ([Anthias, 2006](#_bookmark1); [Giddens, 1991](#_bookmark7); [Jones & Krzyzanowski, 2008](#_bookmark10); [Simon, 1972](#_bookmark25)). Finally, the inherent process is imbedded in the research situation that is likely to be explicated by grounded theory methods ([Birks](#_bookmark2) [& Mills, 2015](#_bookmark2)). [Figure 1](#_bookmark0) provides an overview of the research design.



### Figure 1. Research design reflecting conceptual framework and research questions.

This diagram illustrates the research design process by interlinking concepts of perception of uncertainty, sense of belonging, identity, and migration decision-making with socioeconomic and demographic data about participants and locality through semi-structured interviews, survey, and document review.

## Rationale for the Research Approach

This research adopts a case study design focusing on the Czech community in the UK. The case study has been chosen because the Czech migrant community is underrepresented in the literature on migration to date ([Janurová, 2018](#_bookmark9)). Additionally, the case study design enables to (1) explore and interpret a small number of cases in depth, (2) identify and appreciate the impact of a range of personal and situational circumstances in specific cases, and (3) take a holistic approach to the research topic and explore the topic in context ([Matthews & Ross, 2010](#_bookmark14)).

This study focuses on Czech citizens from three different localities, Cambridge and Leeds with a detailed focus on the Cambridge locality split between Cambridge City and semi-rural surrounding areas. An in- depth understanding was gained by focusing on 10 participants in each locality. I deployed a macro lens when exploring the voices of all participants. In-depth understanding of how locality impacts perceptions of uncertainty was enabled by comparing different types of localities: two urban localities, Cambridge and Leeds, and urban and semi-rural localities, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

## Data Sampling

A purposeful sampling procedure was used for recruiting the research participants. This strategy is typically deployed in case study methods in order to acquire the most comprehensive and relevant information about key concerns or variables explored within the study ([Patton, 1990](#_bookmark19); [Silverman, 2010](#_bookmark23)). The purpose of the sampling was to locate Czech migrants in two different localities. Thus, a snowball sampling strategy was employed in which participants were asked to refer other potential participants who meet the initial requirements ([Miles & Huberman, 1994](#_bookmark18)). The recruitment started with participants the researcher met through social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook) and UK-based Czech societies. Each member of the initial group was asked to suggest other participants with similar characteristics. The initial criteria for participants of the study reflecting the research questions were as follows:

* To be a Czech citizen living in the UK.
* To be at or over the age of 18 years at the time of interviewing.

All the recruited participants met the initial criteria, and there was a broad range of differences among potentially important parameters: length of stay in the UK, gender, age, occupation, education, and reasons for moving to the UK. A target sample range of 40–45 Czech migrants currently living in Leeds, Cambridge, and surrounding semi-rural areas were recruited on a voluntary basis. All participants were given pseudonyms to protect their identity.

## Data Collection

Each question in the semi-structured interview referred to a specific theme identified within the main framework. Additionally, participants were asked two or three subquestions to draw out and characterize a detailed understanding of migrants’ lived experiences. The questions were organized in four areas reflecting the separate theoretical dimensions of (1) social, economic, and political uncertainty, (2) values and national identity, (3) sense of being at home and social interactions, information, expectations, and (4) reasons underpinning migration decision-making. Links between the concepts were reflected in the conceptual framework interconnecting uncertainty and belonging, uncertainty and identity, and uncertainty and migration decision-making. Finally, in order to complete a quadrangulation of the main concepts, a link between belonging and migration decision-making was reflected in one of the interview questions.

The interviewees were given the option of primary or secondary language for conducting the interview to ensure that the interview was conducted in the language they were most proficient or comfortable with. Most participants (*N* =38) decided to be interviewed in their native language, Czech, the remaining five participants opting for English. The preference for the Czech language was justified by an ability to express views and ideas in the native language accurately. As [Tóth (2011)](#_bookmark26) argues, anxiety related to using a secondary language is evidenced not only in the early stages of learning a foreign language, and, thus, conducting an interview in primary language can overcome any potential discomfort related to the use of secondary language in the interview. All semi-structured interviews were conducted online via social platforms (MS Teams or Skype)

in order to comply with Anglia Ruskin University COVID-19 measures regarding face-to-face contact. One participant was interviewed by telephone due to internet connectivity problems. All interviews were recorded after obtaining the participant’s consent.

Three pilot interviews were conducted with Czech participants living in Cambridge prior to the main study. All three interviews were transcribed, and one semi-structured interview was coded using an open coding system in Nvivo. The pilot interviews enabled further development of a fine-grained and focused interview schedule, including follow-up questions and prompts. They also underpinned the reformulation of some questions in the service of improving the overall clarity of the interview questions.

Qualitative research is based on a social constructivist ontological position, which is concerned with how realities about the world are understood and interpreted by individuals and groups ([Saunders & Tosey, 2015](#_bookmark20)). Thus, the philosophical standpoint adopted in this research is a constructivist-interpretivist paradigm, in the sense that it postulates that individuals’ reality is understood through their own personal lens which is formed by past experiences, beliefs, and biases. A core assumption of the constructivist-interpretivist paradigm is ([Levers, 2013](#_bookmark11)) that the perceived experience of an individual migrant is his/her interpretation of reality. Interpretation of data by the researcher is undertaken through his/her own lens and is open to questioning. Hence, given that the objectives of this qualitative research are focused on extracting and interpreting the meaning of experiences of uncertainty by individual Czech migrants, the adoption of a constructivist- interpretivist philosophical paradigm was the most appropriate approach for the research study design.

## Section Summary

* Grounded theory as a deductive research method was deployed because it aims to generate theories explaining social processes or actions through the analysis of data from participants that have experienced them.
* Snowball sampling enabled the recruitment of participants who met two participatory criteria from three different localities via social media platforms and Czech-established institutions.
* Data were collected using semi-structured interviews and surveys via online platforms such as MS Teams and Skype.

# Research Practicalities

This section presents details of the research process from a practical perspective, including sampling method, conducting interviews online via MS-Teams and Skype, and ethical considerations.

## Snowball Sampling

The participants were identified in Cambridge city, Cambridgeshire, and Leeds on social media and recruited into the study. These three localities were selected to provide an in-depth understanding of uncertainty with regard to different sociodemographic and political composition of urban and semi-rural localities. To gain

access to particular localities, gatekeepers to the Czech community in the localities were identified. Recruiting participants in Cambridge city and Cambridgeshire did not cause any significant obstacles. Cambridge and Cambridgeshire have an established Czech community represented on social media sites, and it was therefore relatively straightforward to gain access to the community and recruit the first participants. At the end of each interview, participants were prompted to invite other Czech participants to the study. Most of the participants in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire were keen to share their personal and professional experiences. This sample of 33 participants was recruited within a month, followed by online interviews from May to September. In contrast, recruiting participants in Leeds took significantly longer to reach the minimum number of 10 participants. Significant support with recruiting was provided by a key informant who advertised my study on social media. Additionally, I advertised the research study via Leeds University and the Leeds City Council Facebook page, but I was faced with difficulties in meeting the target of 8–10 participants. The recruiting and interviewing process lasted from September to January when I reached the minimum target number of 10 participants.

## Conducting Online Data Collection

The interviews were conducted online as I started the interviewing process during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The research project had originally been designed as requiring face-to-face data collection but due to the lockdown had to be altered. The interviewing process required redesigning to an online mode of data collection, and the ethics approval was amended to reflect this modification. Conducting online data collection provides the flexibility to arrange an interview at the convenience of the interviewee, for example, running some interviews in the evenings. However, online data collection can be associated with immediate technical issues, such as poor internet bandwidth and/or signal.

I conducted most of the interviews via MS Teams, with two interviews conducted via Skype and one via telephone. MS Teams was chosen as it enables the recording of interviews and secure storage. All participants signed a consent form electronically. The consent form and participant information sheet were emailed to all participants. The consent form was signed electronically and was returned via email. All participants were notified once the signed consent form was received and a suitable date for their interview was then mutually agreed. MS Teams interview invites were then set up via Microsoft Outlook and emailed to each participant. Verbal consent to having the sessions recorded was also sought from the outset of the interview. All interviews were stored in MS Teams and then downloaded to my password-protected personal computer and saved on two memory cards, with all information linking the identity of the participants to their data removed and replaced with a code. This process provided the opportunity for any participant to subsequently withdraw their data should they wish to, in line with ethics panel requirements (see also below). All the recorded interviews were removed from MS Teams.

At the beginning of each interview, a survey was conducted as a component part of the interview schedule. The answers to the survey questions were noted on a record sheet setup for this purpose for each participant and recording via MS Teams was then started immediately before the first interview question.

The design of a semi-structured interview with prompted questions was chosen to ensure that all questions are answered, and the participant is given space to reflect on experiences. The interview schedule was divided into four sections reflecting the conceptual framework (uncertainty, belonging, identity, migration decision). Additionally, information regarding migration experiences was added to serve as an introduction to each participant’s story. The interview schedule was concluded with a summarizing question to capture the interlink between uncertainty, belonging, identity, and migration decision-making.

During the interviews, memos were taken to note feelings, perceptions, or some outline sentences or comments. One of the advantages of video-recorded interviews, whether online or face-to-face, is that a researcher can reflect on the interview later on and potentially note other observations which might have been missed during the interview itself.

## Ethical Considerations

Ethics confirmation from the Ethics panel of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University was granted on 1 May 2020. Researchers carry responsibility for informing and protecting participants, thereby ensuring that consent is sufficiently informed and risk effectively managed. The participants were therefore informed about the research study objectives in advance and given the opportunity to either decline their participation or confirm it by electronically signing an informed consent form. In the context of national lockdown, this was the approved way of gaining participants’ consent; MS Teams was established as the most secure media platform for ensuring data confidentiality. Confidentiality safeguards were also built into the research process and aligned with current general data protection regulations (GDPR).

Participant names were replaced with codes/false names in order to ensure that the data they contributed could not be linked with their identities by anyone other than the researcher. Transcripts and data were stored securely, and the interviewees’ personal data were destroyed after the interviews were translated and transcribed in *NVivo*. The interviewees were fully informed about these procedures which were conducted in accordance with the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

## Section Summary

* Snowball sampling was essential for ensuring successful participant recruitment.
* Online data collection using stable and widely employed platforms was crucial for ensuring an adequate and efficient data collection process during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Careful consideration of ethics was essential to ensure effective risk management and data protection processes were in place.

# Method in Action

In-person or face-to-face interviews are generally considered the “gold standard” for qualitative data

collection, whereas interviews conducted via social platforms are depicted as a less attractive alternative ([McCoyd & Kerson, 2006](#_bookmark15)). However, online interviews represent a viable option ([Deakin & Wakefield,](#_bookmark5) [2013](#_bookmark5)), and given ongoing technological advances in computing and connectivity are likely to be increasingly employed during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Online interviews can typically take place in the comfort of participants’ homes and can be more flexibly conducted at a time convenient both for the respondent and the researcher, and thus allow the inclusion of participants living abroad at the time of interview. For instance, some of my participants were interviewed from the Czech Republic where they had to reside due to the national lockdown. Additionally, online interviewing is a cost-effective and straightforward method of data collection because the travel-related cost is not a barrier either for participants or researchers, and well-structured online interviews can often be achieved with limited training. Moreover, online interviews can be attended by participants who are less mobile. Some of my participants were older adults and preferred the option of being interviewed from their homes. Such a setup would be less straightforward if conducted in person rather than online, given safeguarding issues and the requirement for a lone-worker policy and other risk management procedures to be in pace.

In addition to the potential advantages of online data collection described above, a number of limitations were encountered. Some participants lacked experience in using online platforms, such as MS Teams, or were more familiar with other online platforms which could not be used for this research due to concerns about GDPR compliance. Test sign-up invitations for MS Teams were offered to all participants to allow them to attempt to connect and become familiarized with the software prior to the interview. This was appreciated especially by older participants and those who had limited or no experience of using MS Teams. The possibility was also acknowledged that those more familiar with MS Teams and other videoconferencing platforms might be more comfortable during the interview than those less familiar, potentially impacting the quality of the acquired data.

Some participants had difficulties downloading and installing MS Teams, spending over an hour before successfully doing so. Another participant was unable to install MS Teams and the interview was therefore run via the more familiar Skype platform, thereby introducing an element of inconsistency in the interview process across the sample. Ultimately, however, such technical issues did not discourage any participants from participating in the research. Occasionally, there were connection difficulties, with one interview necessarily rescheduled and conducted via telephone. A small number of participants lacked a camera on their computers and therefore opted to run the interview via mobile phone, thereby affecting the quality of the data collection to the extent that visual contact may be important for gaining a more complete understanding of participants’ reactions and emotions during the interview process. More generally, internet connection “glitches” affected the clarity of recordings at times, causing occasional difficulties during the transcription process. However, this limitation was overcome by taking notes during the interview.

Conducting online interviews with participants in their homes reduces the level of control over the interview environment, and interviews were disrupted from time to time when family members entered the room, or the participant had to attend to their children. Overall, however, such interruptions were infrequent and were

considered a minor issue in the context of interview data quality. A more basic concern was that a computer screen can be perceived as a barrier, resulting in a reduced sense of connection and diminished rapport between interviewer and interviewee. Potentially, this can lead to a more formal style of interviewing and constrained discussion around the research question. An additional practical issue was associated with the automated storage of recordings in MS Teams. These downloaded files are automatically deleted after a fixed period of time, rendering the data inaccessible. This lack of direct control over storage necessitated the prompt and regular transfer of data to alternative secure locations to avoid the loss of valuable data. Weighing the advantages and limitations of online data collection provides an essential springboard for establishing best practices that can be adopted in further research.

## Section Summary

* Face-to-face interviews are a more established qualitative method, but online data collection is also a viable option, particularly in the context of COVID-19 risk management.
* Evaluation of the advantages and limitations of online data collection is essential for identifying the optimal method for a given research project.

# Practical Lessons Learned

From reflecting on the interview process from a researcher’s perspective, it was clear that some additional consideration of the challenges of online data collection may have improved the interview experience and the quality of the acquired data.

First, the positive and active engagement of the participants proved challenging, particularly when visual contact was unavailable. In particular, engagement was interrupted by unexpected and uncontrolled events, such as the participant receiving a telephone call during the interview or a family member entering the room. Controlling a remote environment imposes significant and possibly insurmountable challenges for the researcher. Nevertheless, attempting to engage the participant from the outset by highlighting the importance of the project and outlining how the participant’s contributions determine the quality and outcomes of the research might enhance the seriousness with which the participant approaches and engages with the interview. The importance of attempting to monitor and encourage the participant’s engagement with the interview is particularly crucial if visual contact is impossible.

Second, variability in the quality of internet connections and experience with videoconferencing platforms can impact the quality and duration of recorded interviews. To mitigate such issues, participants should have the option of selecting between eligible platforms and be given the opportunity for a pre-interview test call to determine the most appropriate setup. In the project described here, the option of a test sign-up was particularly appreciated by retired, older participants who were less familiar with using MS Teams. The issues around the application of computing and internet technology for online data collection encourage close engagement with the participant information sheet to ensure it provides an effective communication tool covering the practicalities of successful participation. In addition, clear statements within the participant

information sheet outlining consent and withdrawal of elicited data, the likely interview duration, expectations regarding the level of detail required from participants to ensure optimal data quality, interview structure, confidentiality, and data protection should help confer participant confidence and engagement in the research.

Finally, it is particularly important in online studies to constrain the interview duration to ensure participants’ sustained attention throughout the session given the comparative lack of control over the environment and the arguably more artificial characteristics associated with the administration via a computer screen. Clearly, there is an optimal balance to be identified between ensuring (1) sufficient, high-quality data is acquired and (2) the participants remain engaged throughout the interview. In the research described here, several participants were concerned about the duration of the interview and occasionally showed reluctance to engage effectively by providing considered and comprehensive answers to the set questions. In the context of the lockdown, during which participants had to adapt to work and family-related pressures, time was often in short supply and, therefore, became a critical element influencing the level of engagement. Placing more emphasis on the expected length of the interview when recruiting participants and emphasizing the expected outcomes from the research study may have helped mitigate concerns about how to accommodate the interview at a time of increased anxiety and pressures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

These recommendations have emerged from the researcher’s reflective stance, but it is also important that participants’ voices are incorporated in future online research strategies. I therefore encourage researchers to conduct a survey at the end of their online interviews in order to establish participants’ views on this experience. Researcher and participant perspectives on the advantages and limitations of online data collection might together provide a richer source of evidence for establishing robust guidelines for future online research studies.

## Section Summary

* Strategies for improving participant engagement and optimizing data quality include clearly informing participants about how their data determine research outcomes, ensuring familiarity with videoconferencing software, and effectively managing the interview duration.
* The participant information sheet is crucial in communicating the study characteristics, from both practical and theoretical perspectives.

# Conclusion

The use of online data collection enabled the capture of perceived uncertainties in real-time during the first COVID-19 lockdown and thus provided live testimonies as they unfolded in the personal and professional lives of Czech migrants living in the UK. It enabled the subjective experiences to be recorded “in the moment” rather than as autobiographical recollections of a past event. In-person interviews were not possible during the lockdown, and the use of videoconferencing technology provided a unique and cost-effective opportunity for recording migrants’ subjective responses in the context of the unfurling and unprecedented uncertainties associated both with the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit.

On reflection, the use of online semi-structured interviews as outlined here has facilitated the acquisition of a comprehensive dataset which will inform understanding of how changing and diverse perceptions of uncertainty interconnect with ideas of belonging, identity, and future migration decision-making among Czech migrants living in the UK. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the interview process and, therefore, the quality of the acquired data may have benefited from changes to some of the research components.

Despite the limitations associated with online data collection, the method holds a range of potentially significant advantages over face-to-face research methods. The key consideration for new online research projects should focus carefully on how to minimize the limitations while exploiting the strengths. This case study is offered in the service of helping to achieve this aim.

# Classroom Discussion Questions

1. To what extent do you consider online data collection to be an appropriate method for exploring perceptions of uncertainty among Czech migrants living in the UK?
2. The case study lists some advantages and limitations of conducting online interviews. Can you identify any other limitations and benefits beyond those covered here?
3. Explain how the research design would change if semi-structured interviews were the only method of data collection in the case study. What are the implications for the methods of data analysis that could be employed?
4. Why do you think that locality was included as a variable of interest in this case study?
5. Consider ethical risks associated with this case study. Outline those issues that can be effectively managed by online/remote data collection and those that are more difficult to manage in comparison to face-to-face research.

# Further Reading

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# Web Resources

An Online Forum As a Qualitative Research Method: Practical Issues: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2491331/) [articles/PMC2491331/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2491331/)

Carrying out qualitative research under lockdown – Practical and ethical considerations: [https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/04/20/carrying-out-qualitative-research-under-lockdown-](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/04/20/carrying-out-qualitative-research-under-lockdown-practical-and-ethical-considerations/) [practical-and-ethical-considerations/](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/04/20/carrying-out-qualitative-research-under-lockdown-practical-and-ethical-considerations/)

Remote learning: Data collection and analysis: <https://libguides.hull.ac.uk/remote/datacollection>

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