



Fieldwork for all

What's my role?



Fieldwork is not safe for everyone. Sometimes there is an assumption that everyone's needs are sufficiently met. But people with different identities face different risks and barriers in the field.

It is vital that everyone feels safe to do their work, both in and out of the field. They should also feel free to set boundaries about what parts of their identity they choose to share—or choose not to share.

So, how do we identify these needs? And how do we support fieldworkers in staying safe—both socially and feeling supported by their institution?

Research

The Field Forward project brought together participants across two workshops to explore their real-world experiences of working in the field. The discussions included postgraduate (PhD) researchers, research leaders, and support staff, who highlighted necessary actions for ensuring wellbeing and safety in the field.



Universities need to:

Set up clear but flexible, proactive check-in processes, so fieldworkers know who, when, and where to share concerns.

Create formal systems for reporting issues and make sure these are well-known.

Fieldwork supporters need to:

Build safe, trusting spaces to talk about fieldwork and identity concerns before, during, and after fieldtrips.

Connect with trusted people in the field that host fieldwork and other fieldworkers so researchers know where to get quick advice and help.

Run regular check-ins with those entering, working in, and leaving the field.

Researchers need to:

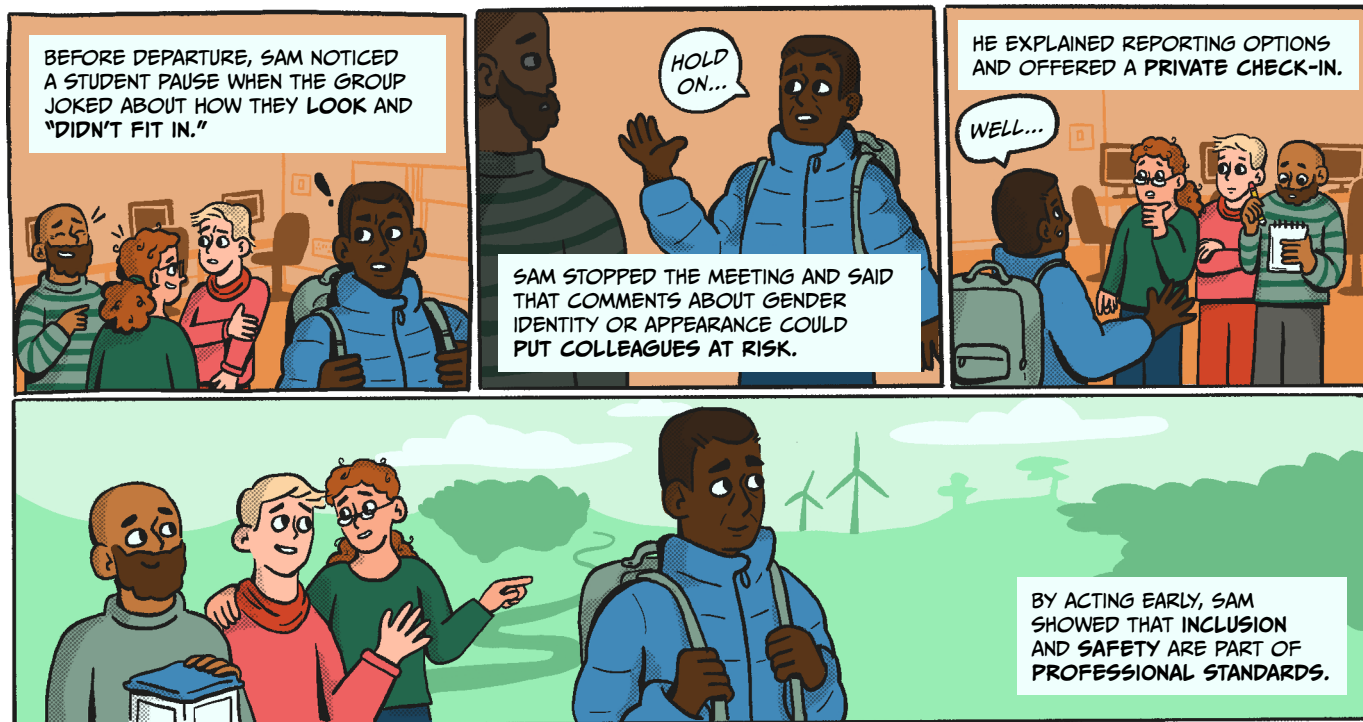
Start conversations with fieldworkers about their individual needs and the support they require.

Set boundaries with colleagues, supervisors, research leadership, and institutions on what is and isn't acceptable in the field, and decide how to share or withhold aspects of their identity.

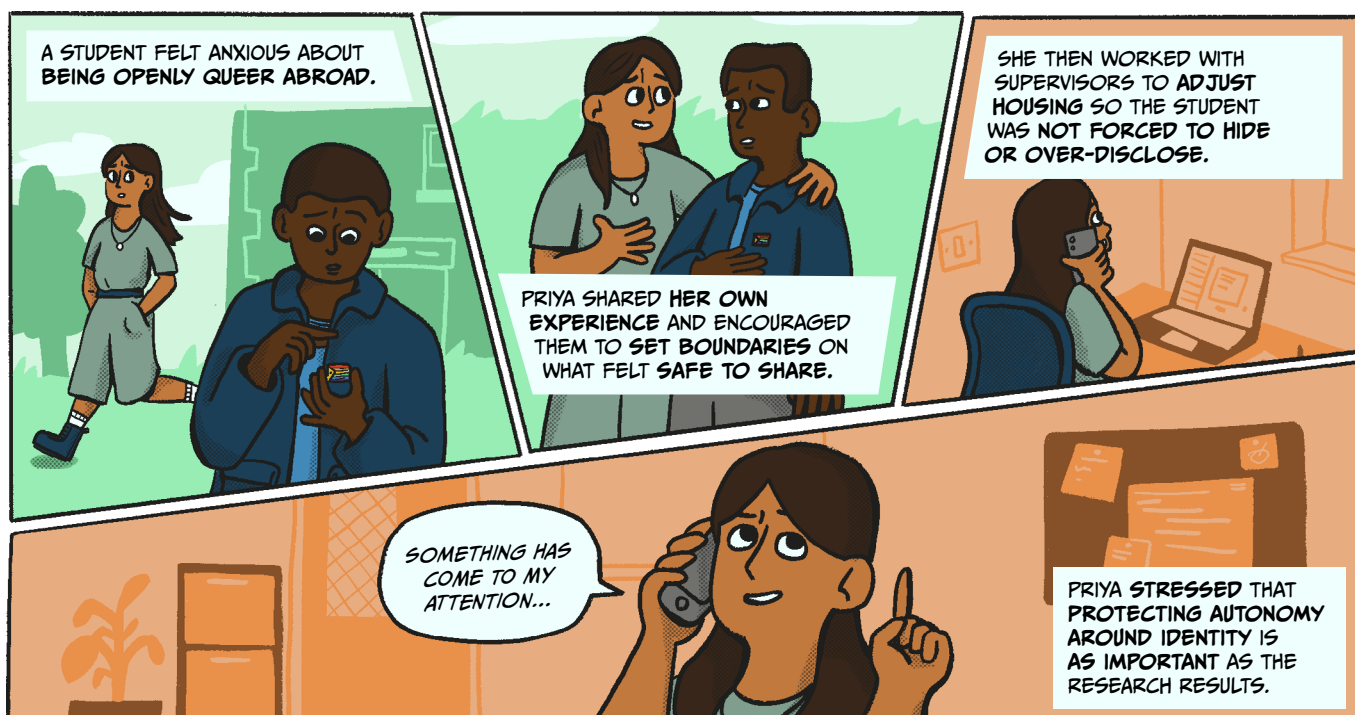
Vignettes

What would you do?

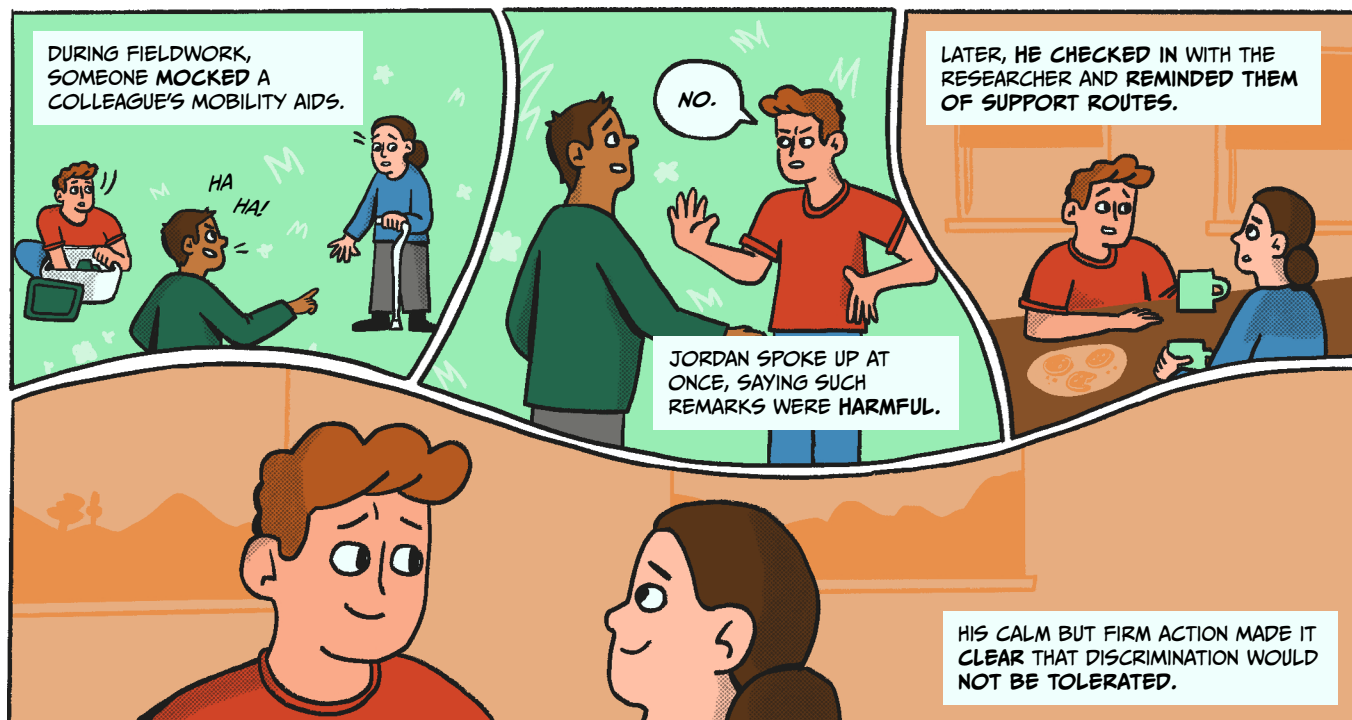
The Research Leader



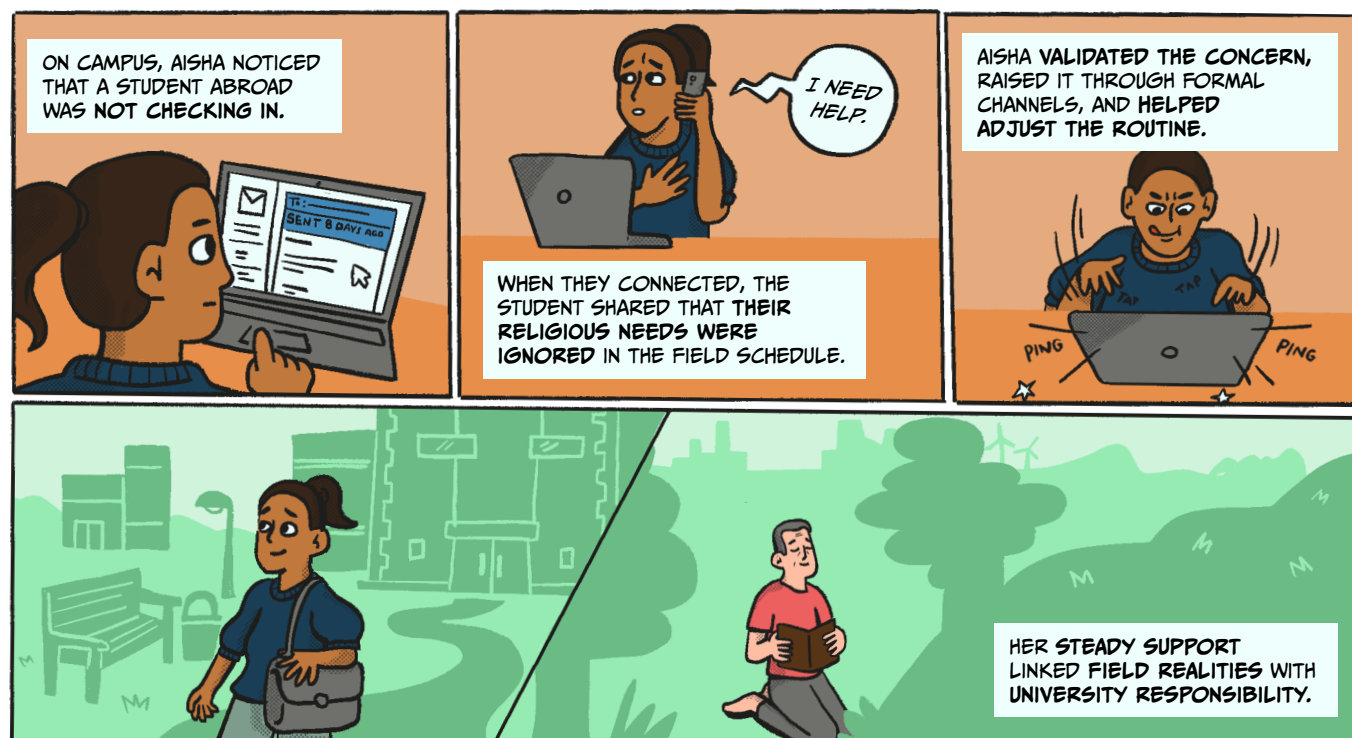
The Early-Career Advisor



The Bystander



The Fieldwork Supporter





**Talking about experiences in
fieldwork is not a one-off exercise
—it's a continuous conversation.**



**Start the conversation in your role today.
To find out more, visit:
inclusivefieldwork.leeds.ac.uk**