

Do you think there are any situations in which you shouldn't complete a study if you can't access the country?

GRO researcher

Should you be working anywhere without a working partner? I'm not sure what gives us the right to work in somebody else's country.

Academic 1

If there is some kind of eruption that hasn't happened [before]...there is a rush for people all over the world to bring their opinions to bear on a new scientific phenomenon. A lot of that work did not wait for people to reach out to people on the ground and say: "do you mind if we study the [volcanic] plume?"

Academic 2

Lots of people jump in and say: "I can do this, I'll look at that", it's a kind of rare event. It's the same idea. Lots of people looking at this data didn't have agreements with Japan, but Japan made lots and lots of this data available, people were able to look at, GPS and other data in a way we didn't really need it [collaboration in-country].

Focus Group 1 responses

a)

Academic 1

If you want to understand the physical processes going on, you want to visit the site.

Academic 2

What happens if you reach out to an observatory or a local science team and they don't want to know? Some real, high quality, useful data exists and what do you do then? In theory, scientific knowledge should be everyone's. But if the principle is that you want to work with local people, this is an excellent idea 90% of the time but sometimes people might not want to do it. Maybe they are working with someone else, maybe they have lots of reasons. This is a tricky one...

Academic 2 (later)

Remote sensing might be the only thing they [in-country researchers] have got.

Focus Group 2 responses

b)