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# Activity 3-3

## The Research Persona: Doing Research

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**Who you are (and how you are perceived) as a researcher will influence greatly how community members relate to you and what data you can collect. Consider your presence and identity as a researcher and respond to the following questions:**

Have you been in a situation (whether in terms of social research or not) where your identity- *who you are*- has changed the dynamic of the situation? How did you become aware of this?

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What underpinned this reception; was it connected to an aspect of your identity, such as your age, gender, sexuality, ability, professional identity?

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What did you do to work around this?

In the Research Setting...

Can you envisage any research situations where being who you are will influence how you will be perceived, and subsequently, how you might collect data?

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How will you work around this?

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### Points to Note...

Although the Research Persona was identified in Module 1, consideration for how *who you are* influences the way you collect data should be given. This will be apparent when it comes time to collect data in the field, when in contact with community members. How you are perceived will shape what community members will share with you.

### The Task

This task requires you to consider your Research Persona in terms of how this will influence your practice when collecting data. Consider previous situations where *who you are* shaped how people related to you, and then translate this into a consideration of how this might influence your practice as a practitioner researcher.

Social Research Toolkit:

using social research in local government  
community engagement