This workshop will help you reflect on the research process and prepare for Transfer of Status. Some sessions will provide advice from faculty and postdoctoral researchers. Other sessions will enable you to present your work and to learn from fellow students.

**Recommended Reading**


**Michaelmas Term**

**Week 1. Publication (with Prof. Christiaan Monde)**

Thursday, 17 October, 2.00–3.30, Meeting Room

*Preparation*: Choose two journals that would be suitable for your research—one being the most ambitious and the other being the most accessible. Examine the articles published in these journals over the last few years and select one article from each journal that could be a model for your own work. If your research would be more naturally published as a monograph, substitute book publishers for journals.

**Week 2. Exemplars**

Thursday, 24 October, 2.00–3.30, Meeting Room

*Preparation*: Read Abbott’s *Method of Discovery* (especially ch. 7) and think about what makes a good research question. Read at least one book or two articles that have been derived

1 [http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Abbott2004.pdf](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Abbott2004.pdf)
from an Oxford DPhil thesis—there is an incomplete list at the end of this document; if nothing seems relevant to your work, then you can ask your supervisor to recommend publications by her or his former students. Articles and especially books often incorporate substantial work after the DPhil thesis; you might like to compare the published version with the original thesis (available at the Bodleian). What makes a good thesis?

**Week 3. Initial Presentation (i)**
Thursday, 31 October, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room

*Preparation for Group A:* Write up your thesis proposal in three pages. Explain your research question and justify why it is sociologically interesting. Explain how you will go about answering the question—what data will you analyze and with what methods? Email the proposal to me and all the students and leave a printed copy in my pigeonhole (reception at 42 Park End Street) by midnight on Monday before the workshop. Prepare a presentation of no more than 10 minutes to deliver in class (without slides).

*Preparation for Group B:* Read all the proposals and write at least two questions or comments for each. Print these out separately and bring them to the workshop to give to each student in Group A.

All students must attend both weeks.

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**Week 4. Initial Presentation (ii)**
Thursday, 7 November, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room

*Preparation:* As above, switching Group A and Group B.

**Week 5. Requirements for Transfer of Status** *(with Natasha Cotton)*
Thursday, 14 November, 2.00–3.30, Meeting Room

*Preparation:* Read the relevant sections of the Handbook.

**Week 6. Reviewing Literature**
Thursday, 21 November, 2.00–3.30, Meeting Room

**Week 7. Managing supervisors and coauthors** *(with Dr Valentina Rotondi and Dr Charles Rahal)*
Thursday, 28 November, 2.00–3.30, Meeting Room
Week 8. Discussion of Draft Literature Review / Theory Section
(with Dr Anja Krausova)
Group A: Thursday, 5 December, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room
Group B: Friday, 6 December, 2.00–4.00, Lecture Theatre

Preparation: Write a draft literature review / theory section of about 5–7 pages. This might be for your whole thesis or for just one chapter. Describe the current state of the art—what is known and what is not known—and how your thesis will contribute. Delineate the theories (and potential hypotheses, if applicable) you will use in your thesis. Email the text to all the students in your group and the convenor (anna.krausova@sociology.ox.ac.uk or Michael) by midnight on Monday before class. Before class, read the texts of all students in your group and write at least two questions or comments for each. Print these out separately and bring them to the workshop to exchange.

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HILARY TERM

Week 4 or 5. Discussion of Draft Data and Method Sections (with Prof. Leigh Payne)
Group A: Thursday, 13 February, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room
Group B: Thursday, 20 February, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room

Preparation: In 3–4 pages, justify the research design and describe the proposed data and method. This can be tailored either for one particular paper or chapter or for the whole thesis. Email the text to all the students in your group and the convenor (leigh.payne@sociology.ox.ac.uk or Michael) by midnight on Monday before class. Before class, read the texts of all students in your group and write at least two questions or comments for each. Print these out separately and bring them to the workshop to exchange.

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**Week 7. Final Presentations (i)**

Thursday, 5 March, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room

*Preparation for Group A:* Prepare a presentation of no more than 8 minutes to deliver in class, preferably focusing on one paper or chapter rather than the thesis as a whole. If you wish to use slides, please bring them on a USB stick. *(I will stop you after 8 minutes so practice keeping to the time limit!)*

All students must attend both weeks.

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**Week 8. Final Presentations (ii)**

Thursday 13 March, 2.00–4.00, Meeting Room

*Preparation for Group B:* As above.
Some articles and books derived from our recent DPhil theses

(If you don’t see anything from your supervisor’s students, then ask her or him for recommendations)


Chung, Alex S., Chinese Criminal Entrepreneurs in Canada, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019


Dhattiwala, Raheel, Keeping the Peace: Spatial Differences in Hindu-Muslim Violence in Gujarat in 2002, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019


Wong, Rebecca, The Illegal Wildlife Trade in China: Understanding The Distribution Networks, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019


