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. All sessions will be held by video on MS Teams. With one exception, they will be held at 10.30 a.m. and last for up to two hours.

**Recommended Reading**


**MICHAELMAS TERM**

**Week 1. What makes a good question?**

Wednesday, 14 October, 10.30 a.m.

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 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?

---

1 [http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Abbott2004.pdf](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Abbott2004.pdf)
Week 2. Who is your audience?
Wednesday, 21 October, 10.30 a.m.
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 3. Initial proposal (i)
Wednesday, 28 October, 10.30 a.m.
Preparation. If you are in the list below, 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? Upload the proposal by midnight on Monday before the workshop, using your first name as the file name. Everyone should then read all proposals and prepare two questions or comments for each. In the seminar, there will be no presentation, but the two discussants will each have a few minutes to present their questions or comments and then anyone else can do the same.

All students must attend both weeks.

Proposals (discussants)
Kasimir (Carla, Alissa)
Alicia (See Pok, Abdul)
Gabriel (Yoav, Shoudeng)
Aneesa (Beth, Yoav)
Shoudeng (Jiaxin, Henglong)
Jiaxin (Alicia, Said)
Beth (Henglong, Carla)
Guanghui (Kasimir, Yan)

Week 4. Initial proposal (ii)
Wednesday, 4 November, 10.30 a.m.
Preparation: As above.

Proposals (discussants)
Carla (Gabriel, Alicia)
Henglong (Shoudeng, Scarlett)
See Pok (Abdul, Jiaxin)
Yan (Scarlett, Beth)
Yoav (Aneesa, Kasimir)
Said (Yan, Gabriel)
Abdul (Alissa, Aneesa)
Scarlett (Guanghui, See Pok)
Alissa (Said, Guanghui)
Week 5. Bibliographic Tools and Workflow *(with Arun Frey)*

Wednesday, 11 November, 1 p.m.

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

---

Week 6. Reviewing Literature

Wednesday, 18 November, 10.30 a.m.

---

Week 7. Managing supervisors and coauthors *(with Dr Tobias Ruttenauer and Dr Kamila Kolpashnikova)*

Wednesday, 25 November, 10.30 a.m.

---

Week 8. Discussion of Draft Literature Review / Theory Section

Group A: Wednesday, 2 December, 10.30 a.m.

Group B: Friday, 4 December, 10.30 a.m.

*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. Upload the proposal by midnight on Monday of week 8, using your first name as the file name. Everyone should then read *all* proposals. In the seminar, the named discussant will offer criticisms and suggestions and then anyone else can do the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A: Wednesday</th>
<th>B: Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdul (Gabriel)</td>
<td>Carla (Shoudeng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said (Jiaxin)</td>
<td>See Pok (Alissa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoudeng (Alicia)</td>
<td>Aneesa (See Pok)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoav (Henglong)</td>
<td>Henglong (Said)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlett (Beth)</td>
<td>Alissa (Yoav)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yan (Scarlett)</td>
<td>Gabriel (Abdul)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guanghui (Kasimir)</td>
<td>Alicia (Guanghui)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasimir (Yan)</td>
<td>Beth (Aneesa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiaxin (Carla)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Hilary Term**

Week 4. Data and Methods (i)

Wednesday, 10 February, 10.30 a.m.

*Preparation.* If you are in the list below, write three or four pages justifying the research design and describing the data and method. This can be tailored either for one particular paper or chapter or for the whole thesis. Upload the proposal by midnight on Monday before the workshop, using your first name as the file name. Everyone should then read *all* proposals and prepare two questions or comments for each. In the seminar, there will be no presentation, but the discussant will each have a few minutes to present questions or comments and then anyone else can do the same.


Proposals (discussant)
Carla (Jiaxin)
Shoudeng (Carla)
Alissa (See Pok)
See Pok (Aneesa)
Said (Henglong)
Yoav (Alissa)
Abdul (Gabriel)
Guanghui (Alicia)
Aneesa (Beth)

Week 5. Data and Methods (ii)
Wednesday, 17 February, 10.30 a.m.
Preparation: As above.

Proposals (discussant)
Gabriel (Abdul)
Jiaxin (Said)
Alicia (Shoudeng)
Henglong (Yoav)
Beth (Scarlett)
Scarlett (Yan)
Kasimir (Guanghui)
Yan (Kasimir)

Week 6. Ethnographic research in practice (with Dr Raheel Dhattiwala)
Wednesday, 24 February, 10.30 a.m.

Week 7. Final Presentations (i)
Wednesday, 4 March, 10.30 a.m.
Preparation: Prepare a presentation of no more than 8 minutes to deliver in class, focusing on one paper or chapter rather than the thesis as a whole. (I will stop you after 8 minutes so practice keeping to the time limit!)

Presenters
Abdul
Gabriel
Beth
Yoav
See Pok
Scarlett
Kasimir
Aneesa
Alicia
**Week 8. Final Presentations (ii)**

Wednesday 10 March, 10.30 a.m.

*Preparation:* As above.

Shoudeng
Henglong
Alissa
Carla
Said
Yan
Guanghui
Jiaxin
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


Frey, Arun, “‘Cologne Changed Everything’: The Effect of Threatening Events on the Frequency and Distribution of Intergroup Conflict in Germany’, European Sociological Review, in press, DOI 10.1093/est/jcaa007/5814862


Zulver, Julia, ‘Building the City of Women: Creating a Site of Feminist Resistance in a Northern Colombian Conflict Zone’, *Gender, Place, and Culture*, vol. 24, 2017, pp. 1498–1516