

WORKSHOP FOR PROBATIONER RESEARCH STUDENTS
Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
2021/22

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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. They will take place in the Department of Sociology's Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, starting at 10.30 a.m. and lasting for up to two hours.

Recommended Reading

- Andrew Abbott, *Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2004.
- Michael Billig, *Learn to Write Badly: How to Succeed in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. (Digital version available.)
- Jeremy Freese, 'Replication Standards for Quantitative Social Science: Why Not Sociology?', *Sociological Methods and Research*, vol. 36, 2007, pp. 153–72.
- J. Scott Long, *The Workflow of Data Analysis Using Stata*, College Station, Texas: Stata Press, 2009.
- Glenn Firebaugh, *Seven Rules for Social Research*, Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Gary Alan Fine, 'Field Labor and Ethnographic Reality', *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, vol. 28, 1999, pp. 532–39.
- Gary Alan Fine, 'Ten Lies of Ethnography: Moral Dilemmas of Field Research', *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, vol. 22, 1993, pp. 267–94.
- Mario Luis Small, 'How Many Cases Do I Need?: On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field-Based Research', *Ethnography*, vol. 10, 2009, pp. 5–38.
- Stephen Lubet, *Interrogating Ethnography: Why Evidence Matters*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Week 1. What makes a good question?

Wednesday, 13 October

Preparation: Read Abbott's *Method of Discovery* (especially ch. 7¹) 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 their 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 or via SOLO). What makes a good thesis?

¹ <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/Abbott2004.pdf>

Week 2. Who is your audience?

Wednesday, 20 October

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, 27 October

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 (to the ‘Proposals’ channel in Teams ‘PRS Workshop’) 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)

1. Morten (Zia, Naa)
2. Zia (Julia Knox, Xinyi)
3. Rachel (Conor, Julia Jungblut)
4. Conor (Emma, Reja)
5. Julia Jungblut (Naa, Morten)
6. Helen (Xinyi, Morten)

7. Naa (Helen, Zia)
8. Trinidad (Rachel, Antonino)
9. Antonino (Reja, Cici)

Week 4. Initial proposal (ii)

Wednesday, 3 November

Preparation: As above.

Proposals (discussants)

1. Emma (Yujiao, Isabella)
2. Fernando (Cici, Trinidad)
3. Isabella (Antonino, Julia Knox)
4. Huiru (Isabella, Helen)
5. Reja (Emma, Yujiao)
6. Yujiao (Fernando, Huiru)
7. Cici (Julia Jungblut, Fernando)
8. Xinyi (Trinidad, Rachel)
9. Julia Knox (Huiru, Conor)

Week 5. Reviewing Literature

Wednesday, 10 November

Week 6. Bibliographic Tools and Workflow (with Arun Frey)

Wednesday, 17 November

Week 7. Literature Review / Theory (i)

Wednesday, 24 November

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 before the seminar, 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.

All students must attend both weeks.

1. Isabella (Naa)
2. Zia (Helen)
3. Helen (Zia)
4. Rachel (Cici)
5. Conor (Antonino)
6. Naa (Isabella)
7. Trinidad (Reja)
8. Antonino (Fernando)

Week 8. Literature Review / Theory (ii)

Wednesday, 1 December

Preparation: As above.

1. Julia Jungblut (Xinyi)
2. Emma (Huiru)
3. Fernando (Morten)
4. Morten (Conor)
5. Huiru (Emma)
6. Reja (Julia Knox)
7. Yujiao (Trinidad)
8. Cici (Rachel)
9. Xinyi (Conor)
10. Julia Knox (Julia Jungblut)

HILARY TERM

Week 3: Managing supervisors and coauthors (with Dr Lindsay Richards and Dr Charles Rahal); **Research ethics** (with Agnieszka Swiejkowska)

Wednesday, 2 February, 2 p.m.

Week 4. Ethnographic research in practice (with Dr Heather Hamill)

Thursday, 10 February, 11 a.m.

Week 6. Final Presentations (i)

Thursday, 24 February, 10.30 a.m.

Preparation: Prepare a presentation of no more than 10 minutes to deliver in class, focusing on one paper or chapter rather than the thesis as a whole. (I will stop you after 10 minutes so practice keeping to the time limit!)

All students must attend all three weeks.

Presenters

1. Antonino
2. Cici
3. Conor
4. Emma
5. Fernando
6. Helen

Week 7. Final Presentations (ii)

Thursday, 3 March, 10.30 a.m.

Preparation: As above.

Presenters

1. Huiru
2. Isabella
3. Julia Jungblut
4. Julia Knox
5. Morten
6. Naa

Week 8. Final Presentations (iii)

Thursday, 10 March, 10.30 a.m.

Preparation: As above.

1. Rachel
2. Reja
3. Trinidad
4. Xinyi
5. Yujiao
6. Zia

Some articles and books derived from our recent DPhil theses

(If you don't see anything from your supervisor's students, then ask them for recommendations)

Baarda, Charlotte S., 'Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation from Nigeria into Western Europe: The Role of Voodoo Rituals in the Functioning of a Criminal Network', *European Journal of Criminology*, vol. 13, 2016, pp. 257–73

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

Densley, James A., *How Gangs Work: An Ethnography of Youth Violence*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

Densley, James A., 'The Organisation of London's Street Gangs', *Global Crime*, vol. 13, 2012, pp. 42–64

Dhattiwala, Raheel and Michael Biggs, 'The Political Logic of Ethnic Violence: The Anti-Muslim Pogrom in Gujarat, 2002', *Politics and Society*, vol. 40, no. 4, 2012, pp. 481–514

Dhattiwala, Raheel, 'The Ecology of Ethnic Violence: Attacks on Muslims of Ahmedabad in 2002', *Qualitative Sociology*, vol. 39, 2016, pp. 71–95

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

Ding Xuejie, Nicola Barban, Felix C. Tropf, and Melinda C. Mills, 'The relationship between cognitive decline and a genetic predictor of educational attainment', *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 239, 2019, article 112549

Escoffier, Simón, 'Mobilisational Citizenship: Sustainable Collective Action in Underprivileged Urban Chile', *Citizenship Studies*, vol. 22, 2018, pp. 769–90

Frey, Arun, "'Cologne Changed Everything": The Effect of Threatening Events on the Frequency and Distribution of Intergroup Conflict in Germany', *European Sociological Review*, vol. 36, 2020, pp. 684–699

Kawalerowicz, Juta, 'Long-Running Traditions of Racial Exclusionism: Is There Evidence of Historical Continuity in Local Support for Extreme Right Parties in England and Wales?', *Party Politics*, vol. 25, 2019, pp. 227–32

Kawalerowicz, Juta and Michael Biggs, 'Anarchy in the U.K.: Economic Deprivation, Social Disorganization, and Political Grievances in the London Riot of 2011', *Social Forces*, vol. 94, 2015, pp. 673–98

Hamill, Heather, *The Hoods: Crime and Punishment in Belfast*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2010

Lusthaus, Jonathan, *Industry of Anonymity: Inside the Business of Cybercrime*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2018

Luthfa, Samina, 'Transnational Ties and Reciprocal Tenacity: Resisting Mining in Bangladesh with Transnational Coalition', *Sociology*, vol. 51, 2017, pp. 127–145

- Martindale, Nicholas, 'Does Outsourcing School Systems Degrade Education Workforces? Evidence from 18,000 English State Schools', *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, vol. 40, 2019, pp. 1015–36
- Slade, Gavin, *Reorganizing Crime*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013
- Sutherland, Alex, 'Is Parental Socio-economic Status Related to the Initiation of Substance Abuse by Young People in an English City? An Event History Analysis', *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 74, 2012, pp. 1053–61
- Wood, George, 'The Structure and Vulnerability of a Drug Trafficking Collaboration Network', *Social Networks*, vol. 48, 2017, pp. 1–9
- Wong, Rebecca, *The Illegal Wildlife Trade in China: Understanding The Distribution Networks*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019
- Yan, Fei, 'Rival Rebels: The Political Origins of Guangzhou's Mass Factions in 1967', *Modern China*, vol. 41, pp. 168–96
- Zhou, Muzhi. and Man-Yee Kan, 'A New Family Equilibrium? Changing Dynamics Between the Gender Division of Labor and Fertility in Great Britain, 1991–2017', *Demographic Research*, vol. 40, 2019, pp. 1455–1500
- Zhou, Muzhi, 'Motherhood, Employment, and the Dynamics of Women's Gender Attitudes', *Gender and Society*, vol. 31, 2017, pp. 751–76
- 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
- Zulver, Julia, 'High Risk Feminism in El Salvador: Women's Mobilisation in Violent Times', *Gender and Development*, vol. 24, 2016, pp. 171–85