

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

Spring 2017
Mondays, 4:15-6:15 pm

Instructor:

Samantha Majic, PhD
smajic@jjay.cuny.edu
212-237-8439

Dept. of Political Science, John Jay College, 524 W 59th St, New York

Office Hours

Mondays 3-4 pm, first come, first served (GC, Room 5205)

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the principles and methods of qualitative research. During the semester, we will consider epistemological debates about this research and cover the primary qualitative methods used by researchers in the social sciences, including interviews, focus groups, ethnography, participant observation, archival research, feminist methods, and research with visual materials. In addition to analyzing the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each method, students will gain experience using each approach and learn about the major steps of the research process, including project design and implementation, data analysis, and writing and publishing.

Learning Goals

This seminar is designed to:

- Develop students' analytical, critical and hermeneutic abilities
- Ensure that students to think broadly and critically about knowledge creation
- Expose students to a range of qualitative methodological practices
- Foster students' consideration of ethical concerns in research
- Assist students in the development of their own research projects

Texts to Purchase/Borrow

Fujii, Lee Ann. 2018. *Interviewing in social science research : a relational approach*. 1 Edition. ed, *Routledge series on interpretive methods*. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Majic, Samantha. 2014. *Sex work politics : from protest to service provision*. First edition. ed, *American governance: politics, policy, and public law*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Merry, Sally Engle. 2016. *The seductions of quantification : measuring human rights, gender violence, and sex trafficking, Chicago series in law and society*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Pachirat, Timothy. 2011. *Every twelve seconds : industrialized slaughter and the politics of sight, Yale agrarian studies series*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Dvora Yanow. 2012. *Interpretive research design : concepts and processes, Routledge series on interpretive methods*. New York, NY: Routledge.

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

Warren, Carol A. B., and Tracy X. Karner. 2015. *Discovering qualitative methods : ethnography, interviews, documents, and images*. Third edition. ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Unless noted otherwise, all of the other readings are available on the course's Blackboard site (under Content→Readings).

NOTE: You must bring the readings to class.

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

Assignments*	Value	Due Date
Attendance & Participation	10%	All semester
Class facilitation	10%	Dates vary: see guidelines
Short Response Paper	10%	Dates vary: see guidelines
Practice Exercises (3 x 10% each)	30%	Select from topics on syllabus: Mar 9-April 20
Project Proposal- questionnaire	5%	Feb 3
CITI Training Course	5%	Feb 24
Project Proposal- full draft	30%	Draft 1: May 6 by 5pm (5%) Draft 2: May 15 by 5pm (25%)

* See the document "Assignment Guidelines," which contains detailed instructions for each item

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

Please complete all readings prior to class

Note the following acronyms on the syllabus:

IRD = Yanow & Schwartz-Shea's *Interpretive Research Design*

ISSR = Fujii's *Interviewing in Social Science Research*

DQM = Warren & Karner's *Discovering Qualitative Methods*

Jan 27 Introduction

- Today we will review the course policies, assessment activities, and assign facilitation dates
- Students will discuss their research interests with the professor and their classmates

Feb 3 Re-thinking Numbers

- *IRD* p. 113
- Kasza, G. "Perestroika: For An Ecumenical Science of Politics." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Vol. 34, No. 3 (Sep., 2001), pp. 597-600
- Stone, Deborah. 2018. "The 2017 James Madison Award Lecture: The Ethics of Counting." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51 (01):7-16.
- Fry, Hannah. 2019. "Your number's up" *The New Yorker*. Available at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/09/09/what-statistics-can-and-cant-tell-us-about-ourselves?verso=true>
- Merry's *Seduction of Quantification*, Chapters 1-3
- Ingram, Callum. 2018. "Statistics as a Democratic Pedagogy: Quantitative Measures and the Civic Imagination." *New Political Science* 41 (1):122-139.

➔ Questionnaire assignment due in class

➔ Reading response option

Feb 10 Qualitative Methods: Paradigms and Project Design

- *DQM* Chapter 1
- *IRD* Chapters 1 & 2
- Collins, Christopher S., and Carrie M. Stockton. 2018. "The Central Role of Theory in Qualitative Research." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 17 (1)

EXAMPLE

- Majic's *Sex Work Politics*. Chapters 1, 2 & Appendix: a note on methods
- Majic, Samantha. 2014. "Beyond 'Victim-Criminals': Sex Workers, Nonprofit Organizations, and Gender Norm Resistance." *Gender and Society* 28 (3):463-485.

➔ Reading response option

Feb 17 No class

Feb 24 Research Ethics & IRBs

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

- *DQM* Chapter 2
- Fujji, Lee Ann. 2012. "Research ethics 101: Dilemmas and responsibilities." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 45 (4):717-23.
- Ellis, C. 2007. Telling Secrets, Revealing Lives: Relational Ethics in Research with Intimate Others. *Qualitative Inquiry* 13, 3-29.
- Tripp, Aili Mari. 2018. "Transparency and Integrity in Conducting Field Research on Politics in Challenging Contexts." *Perspectives on Politics* 16 (3):728-738.
- Aufderheide, Patricia. "Does this have to go through the IRB?" available at <http://www.chronicle.com/article/Does-This-Have-to-Go/237476>

EXAMPLE

- Wahab, S., and M. Panichelli. 2013. "Ethical and Human Rights Issues in Coercive Interventions With Sex Workers." *Affilia* 28 (4):344-349.
- Vasquez, Tina, "Fighting Back: Monica Jones Battles Phoenix's Project ROSE" available at <http://www.blackgirldangerous.org/2014/03/fighting-back-monica-jones-battles-phoenixs-project-rose/>

➔ Guest: Rebecca Banchik, CUNY GC IRB

➔ IRB certificate due today

Mar 2 Feminist methods

- Doucet, A. and Mauthner N. 2006. "Feminist Methodologies and Epistemologies" in C. D. Bryant and D. L. Peck (Eds.) *Handbook of 21st Century Sociology* (26-32). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
- Amin, Nuzhat. 2005. "Chapter Nine: Voices of Minority Immigrant Women: language, race, and anti-racist feminist methodologies." *Counterpoints* 252:183-204.
- Christensen, Ann-Dorte, and Sune Qvotrup Jensen. 2012. "Doing Intersectional Analysis: Methodological Implications for Qualitative Research." *NORA: Nordic Journal of Women's Studies* 20 (2):109-125.
- Majic, Samantha. (2018). "Feminists, step back! (Re)centering and supporting sex workers' political projects." In Fitzgerald, S. & McGarry, K. (Eds). *Realising Social Justice for Sex Workers: An Agenda for Change*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.

EXAMPLES

- Ives, Sarah F. 2009. "Visual methodologies through a feminist lens: South African soap operas and the post-apartheid nation." *GeoJournal* 74 (3):245-255.
- Walters, Kate A., and Faith P. Auton-Cuff. 2009. "A Story to Tell: The Identity Development of Women Growing up as Third Culture Kids." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 12 (7): 755-72.

➔ Reading response option

Mar 9 Interviews

- *DQM* Chapter 6 & 7
- Kristensen, Guro Korsnes, and Ravn, Malin Noem. 2015. "The Voices Heard and the Voices Silenced: Recruitment Processes in Qualitative Interview Studies." *Qualitative*

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

Research 15 (6): 722-737.

- Leech, Beth L. 2002. Asking questions: Techniques for semistructured interviews. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 35 (4):665-68.
- Smith, Katherine E. 2006. "Problematizing Power Relations in 'Elite' Interviews." *Geoforum* 37:643-53.
- Grant, R. W., and J. Sugarman. 2004. "Ethics in human subjects research: do incentives matter?" *J Med Philos* 29 (6):717-38.

EXAMPLES

- Majic, Samantha. 2015. "‘I’m Just a Woman. But I’ve Never Been a Victim’: Re-conceptualizing Prostitution Policy through the Complex Narrative." *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*
- Wilfahrt, Martha. 2018. "The politics of local government performance: Elite cohesion and cross-village constraints in decentralized Senegal." *World Development* 103:149-161.

➔ Reading response option

➔ Practice exercise option

Mar 16 Focus Groups

- Krueger, R. 2002. Designing and Conducting Focus Group Research.
- Kitzinger, J., 1994. The methodology of focus groups: the importance of interaction between research participants. *Sociology of health & illness*, 16(1), pp.103-121.
- Rodriguez, Katrina, Jana Schwartz, Maria Lahman, and Monica Geist. 2011. "Culturally Responsive Focus Groups: Reframing the Research Experience to Focus on Participants." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 10 (4):401-417.
- Hyams, Melissa. 2004. "Hearing Girls’ Silences: Thoughts on the Politics and Practices of a Feminist Method of Group Discussion." *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* 11 (1): 105–19.

EXAMPLES

- Nyar, Ansilla. 2012. Some New Perspectives on South African Indians and ‘Non-Racialism’: Findings from the AKF Non-Racialism Focus Group Data. *South African Journal of Political Studies*. (1). Pp. 89-112
- Poran, Maya A. 2006. "The Politics of Protection: Body Image, Social Pressures, and the Misrepresentation of Young Black Women." *Sex Roles* 55 (11-12):739-755.

➔ Reading response option

➔ Practice exercise option

Mar 23 Participant observation

- Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Samantha Majic. 2017. "Introduction." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50 (01):97-102.
- Delamont, Sara. 2007. "Ethnography and Participant Observation." In *Qualitative Research Practice*, ed. Clive Seale, Gobo Giampietri, Jaber F. Gubrium and David S. Silverman, 205-27. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

- Kawulich, Barbara B. 2005. "Participant Observation as a Data Collection Method." *Forum: Qualitative Social Research* 6 (2). 29pgs.
- Ashworth, P.D. (1995). "The meaning of "participation" in participant observation." *Qualitative Health Research*, 5 (3), 366-387.

EXAMPLE

- Brotsky, Sarah R., and David Giles. 2007. "Inside the "Pro-ana" Community: A Covert Online Participant Observation." *Eating Disorders* 15, no. 2: 93-109

- ➔ Reading response option
- ➔ Practice exercise option

Mar 30 Ethnography

- *DQM* Chapter 3-5
- Pachirat, Timothy. 2011. *Every twelve seconds : industrialized slaughter and the politics of sight, Yale agrarian studies series*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

NOTE: Dr. Timothy Pachirat will visit our class to discuss ethnography and *Every Twelve Seconds*

- ➔ Reading response option
- ➔ Practice exercise option

Apr 6 Archives

- Frisch, Scott A. 2012. *Doing archival research in political science*. Amherst, N.Y.: Cambria Press. Chapter 2 & Chapter 5
- Tesar, Marek. 2015. "Ethics and truth in archival research." *History of Education* 44 (1):101-114.

EXAMPLES

- Fox, Cybelle. 2016. "Unauthorized Welfare: The Origins of Immigrant Status Restrictions in American Social Policy." *Journal of American History* 102 (4):1051-1074.
- Law, Anna O. 2014. "Lunatics, Idiots, Paupers, and Negro Seamen—Immigration Federalism and the Early American State." *Studies in American Political Development* 28 (2):107-128.

Practical Resources

- Schmidt, Laura. Using Archives: A Guide to Effective Research. Society of American Archivists, www2.archivists.org/usingarchives.
- Heck, Barbara, Preston, Elizabeth, and Svec, Bill. 2008. A Survival Guide to Archival Research. <http://historians.org/perspectives/issues/2004/0412/0412arc.1cfm>.

- ➔ Reading response option
- ➔ Practice exercise option

April 13 No class: spring break

April 20 Documents & Visual materials

- *DQM* Chapter 8

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

- Carolyn, M. Brooks. 2014. "Anti-Oppressive Visual Methodologies: Critical Appraisal of Cross-Cultural Research Design." *Qualitative Sociology Review* 10 (4).

EXAMPLES

- Majic, Samantha. 2017. "Sending a Dear John Letter: Public Information Campaigns and the Movement to "End Demand" for Prostitution in Atlanta, GA." *Social Sciences* 6 (4):138.
- Bellhouse, Mary. 2006. "Candide Shoots the Monkey Lovers: Representing Black Men in Political Theory." *Political Theory* 34 (6):741-784.

- ➔ Reading response option
- ➔ Practice exercise option

April 27 What do I do? Collecting & Analyzing Qualitative Data

- *IRD* Chapter 5 & 6
- *DQM* Chapter 9
- Birks et al. 2008. "Memoing in qualitative research: Probing data and processes." *Journal of Research in Nursing* 13(1): 68-75.
- Aberbach, Joel D. and Rockman, Bert A. 2002. "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 28(3): 476 - 478.

EXAMPLE

- Fujii, Lee Ann. 2010. "Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence." *Journal of Peace Research* 47 (2):231-41.

- ➔ Reading response option

May 4 Writing and Publishing Qualitative Research

- *DQM* Chapter 8
- *IRD* pp. 124-129
- Review the "Qualitative Transparency Deliberations" (QTD) <https://www.qualtd.net>
 - Read "About" and skim through any of the "Draft Working Group Reports" that interest you
- Majic, S. (2017). "Participating, Observing, Publishing: Lessons from the Field" *PS: Political Science & Politics*.
- Belgrave, L.L., Zablotsky, D., Guadagno, M.A. (2002). How do we talk to each other? Writing qualitative research for quantitative readers. *Qualitative Health Research* 12(10): 1427-1439.
- Walker, Lee Demetrius. 2019. Rejection of a Manuscript and Career Resilience. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. January, pp. 44-46
- Hill, Kim Quaille. 2019. "Research Creativity and Productivity in Political Science: A Research Agenda for Understanding Alternative Career Paths and Attitudes Toward Professional Work in the Profession." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 53 (1):79-83.

PSC89301
Advanced Qualitative Methods

May 6 **By 5 pm, please email your final project proposal to Dr. Majic, who will post them on Blackboard for everyone to read.**

May 11 **Final Class**

Final project presentations

Read and be prepared to comment on your classmates' research proposals (posted on BB on May 6).

NOTE: class may run past 6:15 pm tonight!

May 15 **Final, revised draft of proposal due to Dr Majic by 5 pm**