

Professor Geeta Patel

## Stop, Think, Go-Write Interdisciplinary Research Methods

### Course Outline:

This course integrates interdisciplinary research methods and analysis with the internships/independent research projects in which all students in the UVa in India Program are expected to engage. It is divided into six sections. Each section will train students in different facets of qualitative research design using sample studies, lectures and discussions of ethical and philosophical issues. Topics include memory, objectivity, confidentiality, power differentials, feminist epistemology, the status of evidence, and the limits of statistics. Sources range from studies of gender and sexuality to analyses of visual archives and ethnographic techniques. Appropriate for humanities and social science students interested in learning interview techniques, narrative and visual analysis, fieldwork, archival work, and how to frame research questions.

### Required Books:

Burke, Peter. *Eyewitnessing: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence*. Cornell University Press, 2001. ISBN 080143968X

Goodall, H. L. *Writing the New Ethnography*. AltaMira, 2000. ISBN 0742503399

Jaggar, Alison. *Just Methods: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Reader*. Paradigm Publishers, 2007. ISBN 978-1594512049

Nabokov, Peter. *A Forest of Time: American Indian Ways of History*. Cambridge University Press, 2002. ISBN 0521568749

Weston, Kath. *Render Me, Gender Me*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998. ISBN 0231096437

The course will incorporate lectures by organizations, writers and faculty; proposed lecturers are included in the unit breakdowns given below.

### Course Requirements and Assignments:

This course is designed as a seminar that will give you a range of methodological tools and teach you how and when to use them. In this course you will *not* be working on a single research paper or project. Instead, you will complete a series of smaller, focused micro-projects based on your internships that are designed to enhance your understanding of the methodologies, ethical

issues, and epistemological considerations covered each week. These will be determined each time the course is taught and will be based on the particular internships on which students will embark. In the process, you are encouraged to address questions and other matters derived from any sort of qualitative research that you might be planning or conducting outside the course.

Given the engaged nature of qualitative research and the intensive small seminar format, your class participation is crucial. The participation component of your grade encompasses not only attendance but also the degree to which you contribute to collective inquiry and building an intellectual community in the class. Participation also means finishing the readings by the dates assigned.

## Unit 1 The Qualitative in the Quantitative

- Gerd Gigerenzer, Zeno Swijtink, Theodore Porter, Lorraine Daston, John Beatty, Lorenz Kruger, “Statistical Probabilities: 1820-1900.” Pages 37-69 in *The Empire of Chance: How Probability Changed Science and Everyday Life* (Cambridge University Press, 1989)
- Robert Frodeman, Julie Thompson Klein, Carl Mitcham, Nancy Tuana, “Interdisciplinary Studies in Science, Technology, and Society: ‘New Directions: Science, Humanities, Policy’ [the case of New Orleans]” *Technology in Society* 29 (2007): 145-152
- Toby Jayaratne and Abigail Stewart, “Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences: Current Feminist Issues and Practical Strategies” (Jaggar, 44-57)
- Michael Blastland and Andrew Dilnot, “Introduction” and “Averages: The White Rainbow” in *The Numbers Game: The Commonsense Guide to Understanding Numbers in the News, in Politics and in Life* (Gotham Books, 2009)
- David A. Freedman, “Statistical Models and Shoe leather” *Sociological Methodology* 21(10011): 291-313
- Karma Lochrie, “Have We Ever Been Normal?” in *Heterosyncrasies* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005)
- Marilyn Waring, “Counting for Something! Recognizing Women's Contribution to the Global Economy through Alternative Accounting Systems” (Jaggar, 97-104)

### Think Pieces:

- Archival materials from the Statistics Institute of India debating the efficacy of data collection
- John Allen Paulos, “761 Calories, 428 Mgs. Sodium, 22.6 Grams of Fat per Serving: Meaningless Precision”

### Lectures:

- Lokniti Project from the Center for the Study of Developing Societies <http://www.lokniti.org/>
- India Development Foundation <http://www.idfresearch.org/default.asp>

## Unit 2     **A Little Feminist Epistemology: The Insider/Outsider Debate and the Perplexed Subject, Gender in India, Standpoint Theory and Perspective,**

- Catherine Kohler Riessman, "When Gender Is Not Enough: Women Interviewing Women" *Gender and Society* 1 (June 1987): 172-207
- Patricia Zavella, "Feminist Insider Dilemmas: Constructing Ethnic Identity with Chicana Informants" in *Feminist Dilemmas in Fieldwork*, edited Diane L. Wolf (Westview, 1996)
- Judith Stacey, "Can There Be a Feminist Ethnography?" *Women's Studies International Forum* 11.1 (1988): 21-27
- Nivedita Menon, *Seeing Like a Feminist* (Penguin/Zuban, 2012).
- Kath Weston, "Me, Myself and I" in *Render me, Gender me*
- Priti Ramamurthy, "Material Consumers, Fabricating Subjects: Perplexity, Global Connectivity Discourses, and Transnational Feminist Research" *Cultural Anthropology* 18.4 (2003): 524-550
  
- Veena Oldenburg, *Dowry Murder: The Imperial Origins of a Cultural Crime* (Oxford University Press, 2002)
- Anupama Rao, "The Sexual Politics of Caste" in *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India* (Permanent Black, 2009)
- Raka Ray and Seemin Qayum, *Cultures of Servitude: Modernity, Domesticity and Class in India* (Stanford University Press, 2009)
- Geeta Patel, "Home, Homo, Hybrid: Translating Gender" in *Techno-Intimacy* (Women Unlimited, forthcoming)
  
- Patricia Hill Collins, "Black Feminist Epistemology" (Jaggar, 247-256)
- Renato Rosaldo, "Grief and a Headhunter's Rage" in *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis* (Beacon Press, 1993)
- Joan W. Scott, "Experience" (Jaggar, 272-281)
- Lorraine Daston, "Objectivity and the Escape from Perspective" *Social Studies of Science* 22 (1992): 597-618

Handout: Bill Maurer on facticity

Lectures:

- Action India team working on Women's Panchayats
- Queer organizers against 377

## Unit 3     **The State and NGOs, the Economic and the Corporation.**

- Begoña Aretxaga, "Maddening States" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32 (October 2003): 393-410

- Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta, “Rethinking Theories of the State in an Age of Globalization” in *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader* (Blackwell Publishing, 2006)
- Matthew S. Hull, *Government of Paper: The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan* (University of California Press, 2012)
- Akhil Gupta, *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India* (Duke University Press, 2012)
- Janet Roitman, *Fiscal Disobedience: An Anthropology of Economic Regulation in Central Africa* (Princeton University Press, 2004)
- Timothy Mitchell, “Economentality: How the Future Entered Government” *Critical Inquiry* 40 (2014): 479-507
- Ravi Sundaram, *Pirate Modernity: Delhi’s Media Urbanism* (Routledge, 2011)
- Kalyan Sanyal, “Chapters 2, 3, 5” in *Rethinking Capitalist Development: Primitive Accumulation, Governmentality and Post-Colonial Capitalism* (Routledge, 2007)
- James Ferguson, “Declarations of Dependence: Labour, Personhood and Welfare in Southern Africa” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 19 (2013): 223-242
- Miranda Joseph, “Persistent Critique, Relentless Return,” “The Supplementarity of Community with Capital, or, A Critique of the Romantic Discourse of Community” in *Against the Romance of Community* (University of Minnesota Press, 2002)
- Paranjay Guha Thakurta, Subir Ghosh and Jyotirmoy Chaudhuri, *Gas Wars: Crony Capitalism and the Ambanis* (Paranjay Guha Thakurta, 2014)

#### Lectures:

- Ravi Sundaram and Paranjay Guha Thakurta

## **Unit 4      How to do it**

### **Framing Your Inquiry**

#### **What do you call it? Where to you start?**

- Maxine Baca Zinn et al., “The Costs of Exclusionary Practices in Women’s Studies” (Jaggar 198-205)
- Kath Weston, “The Lady Vanishes: On Never Knowing, Quite, Who Is a Lesbian” *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 13.2 (2009): 136-148.
- Mary Field Belenky et al., “Procedural Knowledge: Separate and Connected Knowing” (Jaggar 235-247)
- Paula Gunn Allen, “Kochinnenako in Academe: Three Approaches to Interpreting a Keres Indian Tale” (Jaggar, 21-33)
- Greg Sarris, “‘What I’m Talking about When I’m Talking about My Baskets’: Conversations with Mabel McKay” in *De/Colonizing the Subject: The Politics of*

*Gender in Women's Autobiography*, edited Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson (University of Minnesota Press, 1992)

- Uma Narayan, "Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism" (Jaggar, 213-226)
- H. L. Goodall, "On Becoming an Ethnographer in the Academy" and "Finding the Story in Ethnographic Words" (pp. 21-82 in *Writing the New Ethnography*)

## **Power and Ethics in Research**

### **With Whom Do You Work?**

- H. L. Goodall, "The Ethics of Writing Ethnography" (pp. 153-173 in *Writing the New Ethnography*)
- Barrie Thorne, "'You Still Takin' Notes?': Fieldwork and Problems of Informed Consent" (Jaggar, 460-471)
- Naheed Islam, "Research as an Act of Betrayal" (Jaggar, 471-484)
- Linda Alcoff, "The Problem of Speaking for Others" (Jaggar, 484-495)
- Charles R. Hale and Lynn Stephen, "Introduction" and Keisha-Khan Y. Perry and Joanne Rappaport, "Making a Case for Collaborative Research with Black and Indigenous Social Movements in Latin America" in *Otros Saberes: Collaborative Research on Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Cultural Politics*, edited Charles R. Hale and Lynn Stephen (SAR Press, 2013)

## **Unit 5      Doing it**

### **Oral Histories**

- Nabokov, Peter. *A Forest of Time: American Indian Ways of History*. Cambridge University Press, 2002
- Renée T. White, "Talking about Sex and HIV" (Jaggar, 282-290)
- Valerie Matsumoto, "Reflections on Oral History: Research in a Japanese American Community" in *Feminist Dilemmas*

### **Participant Observation**

- Michael Burawoy, "Teaching Participant Observation," in *Ethnography Unbound: Power and Resistance in the Modern Metropolis*, edited Michael Burawoy et al. (University of California Press, 1991)

### **Interviewing**

- Kath Weston, *Render Me, Gender Me*

### **Historical and Archival Research**

#### **How Do You Read or Find Texts**

- Robert C. Williams, "Sources and Evidence" in *The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History* (M.E. Sharpe, 2011)
- Shahid Amin, *Event, Metaphor, Memory: Chauri-Chaura 1922-1992* (University of California Press, 1995)

- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford University Press, 2004)

### **Visual Evidence and Analysis**

- Peter Burke, *Eyewitnessing: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence*. Cornell University Press, 2001
- Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins, “The Color of Sex” in *Reading National Geographic* (University of Chicago Press, 1993)
- Sabeena Gadihoke, “Selling Soap and Stardom: The Story of Lux” <http://tasveerghar.net/cmsdesk/essay/104/>

### Lectures:

- Sabeena Gadihoke
- The Godrej Archives, archivist Vrunda Pathare [http://www.archives.godrej.com/collection\\_guide.html](http://www.archives.godrej.com/collection_guide.html)
- Gargi Sen <http://www.magic-lantern-films.com/>

## **Unit 6 Writing It Up, Stirring Things Up**

- H. L. Goodall, “Voice, Reflexivity, and Character” and “The Future of New Ethnographic Writing,” pp. 131-151 and pp. 175-198 in *Writing the New Ethnography*
- Shannon Speed, “Putting Activist Scholarship to Work—Forged in Dialogue: Towards a Critically Engaged Activist Research” in *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship*, edited Craig Calhoun and Charles R. Hale (University of California Press, 2008)
- Mary Jo Maynes, Jennifer L. Pierce and Barbara Laslett, *Telling Stories: The Use of Personal Narratives in the Social Sciences and History* (Cornell University Press, 2008)