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:


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


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,
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:
- Lokiniti 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,

- Kath Weston, “Me, Myself and I” in Render me, Gender me  
- Raka Ray and Seemin Qayum, Cultures of Servitude: Modernity, Domesticity and Class in India (Stanford University Press, 2009)  
- 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)  

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.

• 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)
• 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)
• Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, Subir Ghosh and Jyotirmoy Chaudhuri, *Gas Wars: Crony Capitalism and the Ambanis* (Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, 2014)

**Lectures:**

• Ravi Sundaram and Paranjoy Guha Thakurta

**Unit 4 How to do it**

**Framing Your Inquiry**

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

- 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*
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)

Unit 5 Doing it

Oral Histories
- 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

Interviewing
- Kath Weston, Render Me, Gender Me

Historical and Archival Research
How Do You Read or Find Texts

**Visual Evidence and Analysis**

**Lectures:**
- Sabeena Gadihoke

**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*
- 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)