

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY and PLANNING
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**JPG1111HF: Research Practice in Geography and Planning
Fall 2018**

Class: Monday 2-4pm, Sidney Smith Hall, Room SSH 5016

Instructors: Dr. Jun Zhang

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Office Hours: Tue 10-11am; Thurs 10-12pm

By appointment on Skype or phone

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate course introduces students to the philosophical and methodological approaches to research in geography and planning. Through seminar and lecture modules, students will acquire an understanding of different research paradigms, quantitative and qualitative methods, and the knowledge necessary for developing sound and reflective geographic and planning-based research strategies. The goals of the course will be to provide students with the knowledge needed to effectively evaluate research, understand the process of research design, formulate research questions and develop a geographic and/or planning-based research proposal.

This course has an approach to research practice that is grounded in critical social theory. In learning about different approaches to research practice in geography and planning, we will explore how theory, questions and method are intertwined.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EVALUATION

Assignment	Ponderation	Due date
Participation and weekly written responses	25%	Weekly
Chaired class session	10%	Various
Research proposal outline	10%	Week 4
Peer comments on outline + draft	10%	Outline: Week 5 Draft: Week 11
Research proposal	35%	Week 12
Research proposal presentation	10%	Weeks 11 and 12

ASSIGNMENTS

Participation: We expect all students to have thoughtful and respectful engagement with everyone in the class, to actively participate in each class, and to approach this course (and your topic) with enthusiasm.

Weekly written reading responses: Students are expected to complete all readings and submit weekly reading responses in advance of class, and to attend each class well prepared to engage in critical discussion.

Each week, starting from Week 2, write a 1-page, single-spaced response to the readings. In the first paragraph, summarize the main contribution of the readings. This is a useful, practical exercise aimed to help you develop skills in writing concise, on-point summaries of scholarly texts. In the second paragraph, write a critical reflection of the readings. We encourage you to be reflective and to consider readings in relation to each other and to broader methodological and theoretical debates in geography and planning.

Due: Reading responses must be posted to the course Quercus page **by noon on the Sunday** before each class. Late reading responses will not be accepted.

Chaired class session: Each student will Chair the discussion for one class. The Chair will co-facilitate the class by leading the initial discussion. The Chair is responsible for preparing key points that extend our critical analysis of the weekly readings or themes (not a mere summary of the readings), and for posing 2-3 questions that will help to guide class discussion. Chairing a class will help to improve your facilitation skills and is another opportunity to learn from each other in a supportive environment.

Research Proposal outline: The Research Proposal outline should include: i) introduction (introduce the topic and justify its importance, including its relevance in geography and/or planning); ii) research question(s); iii) description of proposed methods; iv) the timeline for conducting the research. (2 pages, single-spaced)

Due Week 4 (Oct 1): Please bring a hardcopy to class.

Peer review of research proposal outline + draft: For this assignment, you will review and comment on the research proposal outline and draft of one of your peers. Further instructions on peer review will be discussed in class, and resources will be made available on Quercus.

Due Week 5 (Oct 8): Please bring a hardcopy to class.

Research Proposal: Research Proposals should include: i) an introduction to the topic, including a justification for the topic, and its relevance to geography and/or planning; ii) a statement of the research question(s) to be addressed; iii) a discussion of the research context for your topic; iv) an overview of the literature and a statement of the relevance of your research to this body of work; v) a detailed discussion of research methods and a timeline for completion. In addition, the proposal should address issues related to rigor in research, positionality and the politics of representation. Research proposals must engage extensively with theoretical and methodological literature beyond the course reading list. (20-25 pages, double-spaced)

Due Week 10 (draft-Nov 19), Week 11 (review of a peer's draft-Nov 26), Week 12 (final-Dec 3): Please bring a hardcopy to class.

Research Proposal presentation: The last two classes (or three, depending on class size) will be dedicated to Research Proposal presentations. Each student will give a 10-minute oral presentation

on their Research Proposal and have opportunity to answer audience questions (5 minutes). This is a great opportunity to work on oral presentation skills and to obtain constructive feedback on your Research Proposal.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Note: Readings may change or be substituted depending on the interests of the class. Advance notice will be given of any changes to readings.

Week 1: September 10 (Jun)

Introduction and Overview

Driver, F. (2000) "Editorial: field-work in geography." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 25, pp. 267-268.

Week 2: September 17 (Jun)

The Field, Theory and Praxis

Katz, C. (1994) "Playing the field: questions of fieldwork in geography." *The Professional Geographer* 46, 1, pp. 67-72.

Hyndman, J. (2001) "The field as here and now, not there and then." *Geographical Review* 91, 1-2, pp. 262-272.

Rose, G. (1997) "Situating knowledges: positionality, reflexivities and other tactics." *Progress in Human Geography* 21, 3, pp. 305-320.

Mohammad, R. (2001) "'Insiders' and/or 'outsiders': positionality, theory and praxis," in M. Limb and C. Dwyer (eds) *Qualitative Methodologies for Geographers*. London: Arnold, pp. 101-117.

Week 3: September 24 (Jun)

Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Research

Lawson, V. (1995) "The politics of difference: Examining the quantitative/qualitative dualism in post structuralist feminist research." *The Professional Geographer* 47, 4, pp. 449-457.

Crang, M. (2002) "Qualitative methods: the new orthodoxy?" *Progress in Human Geography* 26, 5, pp. 647-655.

Phillip, L. J. (1998) "Combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to social research in human geography: An impossible mixture?" *Environment and Planning A* 30, pp. 261-276.

Week 4: October 1 (Jun)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL OUTLINE DUE

Research Ethics

Hopkins, P. (2007) "Positionalities and Knowledge: Negotiating Ethics." *Practice ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 6, 3, pp. 386-394.

Dyer, S. and D. Demeritt (2003) "Un-ethical review? Why it is wrong to apply the medical model of research governance to human geography." *Progress in Human Geography* 33, 1, pp. 46-64.

Madge, C. (2007) "Developing a geographers' agenda for online research ethics." *Progress in Human Geography* 31, 5, pp. 654-674.

University of Toronto: Ethics Review (overview of forms and process).

Workshop – Peer review

Exchange proposal outline with partner for commenting

OCTOBER 8: THANKSGIVING MONDAY, NO CLASS

Week 5: October 15 (Jun)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL OUTLINE PEER REVIEW DRAFT DUE

Fundamentals of Comparative Methods

Lichbach, M. I. (1997) "Social theory and comparative politics," in M. I. Lichbach, A. S. Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press," pp. 239-276.

Blyth, M. (2009) "An approach to comparative analysis or a subfield within a subfield?: Political Economy," pp. 193-219, in M. I. Lichbach and A. S. Zuckerman (eds.) *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Falleti, T. G. and Mahoney, J. (2015) "The comparative sequential method," in J. Mahoney and K. Thelen (eds.), *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 211-239.

Lieberman, E. S. (2015) "Nested analysis: toward the integration of comparative-historical analysis with other social science methods," in J. Mahoney and K. Thelen (eds.) *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 240-263.

Week 6: October 22 (Jun)

Archives

Stoler, A. L. (2009) *Along the Archival Grain: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press: (Selections: Prologue, The Pulse of the Archive).

Lorimer, H. (2010) "Caught in the Nick of Time: Archives and Fieldwork," in D. DeLyser, S. Herbert, S. Aitken, M. Crang & L. McDowell (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage.

Week 7: October 29 (Chris)

Linking Theory, Questions and Method

Moss, P. (1995) "Reflections on the 'gap' as part of the politics of research design." *Antipode* 27, 1, pp. 82-90.

Hall, S. (2003) "Marx's notes on method: a 'reading' of the "1857 Introduction." *Cultural Studies* 17, 2, pp. 113-149.

Flyvbjerg, B. (2004) "Phronetic planning research: Theoretical and methodological reflections." *Planning Theory and Practice* 5, 3, pp. 283-306.

Foucault, M. (1991) "Questions of method." In Burchell, G., C. Gordon and P. Miller (eds.) *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Foucault, M. (2007) "Some questions from Michel Foucault to Hérodote " in J. W. Crampton and S. Elden (eds.) *Space, Knowledge and Power*. Aldershoot: Ashgate, pp. 19-22.

Week 8: November 5 (Chris)

Feminist Approaches to Research

Kobayashi, A. (2001) "Negotiating the personal and the political in critical qualitative research," in Limb, M. and Dwyer, C. (eds.) *Qualitative methodologies for geographers: issues and debates*, London: Arnold, pp. 55-70.

McDowell, L. (1992) "Doing gender: feminism, feminists and research methods in human geography." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers (N.S.)* 17, pp. 399-416.

England, K. (1994) "Getting personal: Reflexivity, positionality, and feminist research." *The Professional Geographer* 46, 1, pp. 80-89.

Miraftab, F. (2004) "Can you belly dance? Methodological questions in the era of transnational feminist research." *Gender, Place & Culture*, 11(4), pp. 595-604.

Week 9: November 12 (Chris)

Interviews and Focus Groups

Mullings, B. (1999) Insider or outsider, both or neither: Some dilemmas of interviewing in a cross-cultural setting. *Geoforum* 30, pp. 337-350.

Elwood, S. and Martin, D. (2000) "'Placing' interviews: Location as a consideration in doing qualitative interviews." *The Professional Geographer* 52, 3, pp. 649-657.

McDowell, L. (2010) "Interviewing: Fear and Liking in the Field," in D. DeLyser, S. Herbert, S. Aitken, M. Crang & L. McDowell (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage.

Hsiung, P. (2010) *Interviewing and Reflexivity In Lives & legacies: A guide to qualitative interviewing*.
<http://www.utoronto.ca/~pchsiung/LAL/home>

Workshop - Interview

Week 10: November 19 (Chris)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL PEER REVIEW DRAFT DUE

Ethnographic Research

Shah, A. (2017) "Ethnography? Participant observation, a potentially revolutionary praxis." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7, 1, pp. 45-59.

Herbert, S. (2000) "For ethnography." *Progress in Human Geography* 24, 4, pp. 550-568.

Tavory, I. and Timmermans, S. (2009) "Two cases of ethnography: Grounded theory and the extended case method." *Ethnography*, 10(3), pp. 243-263.

Iversen, R. R. (2009) "'Getting out' in ethnography: A seldom-told story." *Qualitative Social Work* 8, 1, pp. 9-26.

Exchange proposal draft with partner for commenting

Supplementary:

Watson, A. and K. E. Till (2010) "Ethnography and Participant Observation," in D. DeLyser, S. Herbert, S. Aitken, M. Crang & L. McDowell (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage.

Fine, G. A. (1993) "Ten Lies of Ethnography: Moral Dilemmas of Field Research." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22, pp. 267- 294.

Wacquant, L. (2002) "Scrutinizing the street: Poverty, morality, and the pitfalls of urban ethnography." *American Journal of Sociology* 107, 6, pp. 1468-1532.

Robbins, P. (2006) 'Research is Theft: Environmental Inquiry in a Postcolonial World,' in S. Aitken and G. Valentine (eds.) *Approaches to Human Geography*, London: Sage, pp. 311-324.

Nash, C. (2004) "Postcolonial Geographies: Spatial Narratives of Inequality and interconnection," in Paul Cloke et al (eds), *Envisioning Human Geographies*, London: Arnold, pp. 104-127.

De Leeuw, S., Cameron, E., and Greenwood, M. L. (2012) "Participatory and community-based research, Indigenous geographies and the spaces of friendship: A critical engagement." *Canadian Geographer* 56, 2, pp. 180-194.

Scott, S., Miller, F. and Lloyd, K. (2006) "Doing fieldwork in development geography: research culture and research spaces in Vietnam." *Geographical Research* 44,1, pp. 28-40.

Howitt, R., and Stevens, S. (2005) "Cross-cultural research: Ethics, methods and relationships" In. I. Hay. (Ed.) *Qualitative Methodologies for Human Geographers*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Week 11: November 26 (Chris)

PEER REVIEW COMMENTS ON RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

Research Proposal presentations

Visual Methodologies

Crang, M. (2010) "Visual Methods and Methodologies," in D. DeLyser, S. Herbert, S. Aitken, M. Crang & L. McDowell (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage.

Kitchin, R. and M. Dodge (2007) "Rethinking maps." *Progress in Human Geography* 31, 3, pp. 331-344.

Perkins, C. (2004) "Cartography – cultures of mapping: power in progress." *Progress in Human Geography* 28, 3, pp. 381-393.

Sidaway, J. (2002) "Photography as geographical fieldwork." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 26, 1, pp. 95-103.

Lucchesi, A. (Forthcoming) "Mapping missing and murdered indigenous women." *Gender, Place and Culture*.

Supplementary:

Aitken, S. and M.-P. Kwan (2010) "GIS as Qualitative Research: Knowledge, Participatory Politics and Cartographies of Affect," in D. DeLyser, S. Herbert, S. Aitken, M. Crang & L. McDowell (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography*. London: Sage.

Week 12: December 3 (Chris)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

Research Proposal presentations

Writing and Disseminating Research

Ward, K. (2014) "Writing up," pp. 153-162, in Ward, K. (ed.) *Researching the City*. London: Sage.

Keen, S. & Todres, L. (2007) "Strategies for Disseminating Qualitative Research Findings: Three Exemplars." *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 8(3).

Supplementary Sources:

There are numerous edited collections, special editions and journal articles that focus on research

methodologies and practice. Here are some supplementary sources that you may find helpful, however we encourage you to research further sources that best pertain to your own research interests and practice.

Hay, I. (ed.) (2016) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. 4th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Denzin, N. K. and Y. S. Lincoln (eds.) (2005) *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks : Sage.

Geographical Review, Special Issue: Doing Fieldwork, No. 1/2, (Jan-April, 2001)

Professional Geographer, Special Issue: 1994

Geoforum, Special Issue: 1999

Progress in Human Geography, reports on methodologies

Gatrell, A. (2000) "Choosing a topic," in I. Hay (ed.) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, pp. 36-45.

Valentine, G. (2001) "At the drawing board: developing a research design," in M. Limb and C. Dwyer (eds.) *Qualitative Methodologies for Geographers: Issues and Debates*. New York: Arnold, pp. 41-54.

Monk, J., and Bedford, R. Writing a compelling research proposal. In I. Hay (Ed.) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. London: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Gerring, J. (2007) "The case study: What it is and what it does," pp. 90- 122, in C. Boix and S. C. Stokes (eds.) *The Oxford handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rueschemeyer, D. (2003) "Can one or a few cases yield theoretical gains?" in J. Mahoney and Rueschemeyer, D. (eds.) *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 305-336.

Burawoy, M. (1998) "The extended case method." *Sociological Theory* 16, pp. 4-33.

***Michael Watts, *The Holy Grail: In Pursuit of the Dissertation Proposal*, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Retrieved from <http://iis.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/inpursuitofphd.pdf>

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<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

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