

The Qualitative and Fieldwork Working Group presents:

Seminar Series: Qualitative Methods in Practice

The Qualitative and Fieldwork Working Group (Qualifie) at the SPS department is a student-led teaching initiative and a forum for all types of researchers interested in broadening their understanding and practice of qualitative methods. Throughout the academic year we organise a series of speaker events, paper discussion sessions and run an Ethnography Book Club in order to supplement the educational offering of the SPS department.

Following gaining an understanding in epistemological and philosophical underpinnings of methods in social and political sciences it is time to put theory into practice! In the upcoming Winter and Spring semester we are therefore going to concentrate on the practical uses of Qualitative Methods.

Each session focusses on a particular qualitative research method or approach and brings an established scholar to talk about their experiences in implementing it. The sessions follow a presentation + Q&A format, giving everyone an opportunity to ask direct questions with regards to execution and operationalisation of qualitative methodologies.

As our community grows beyond the corridors of Badia Fiesolana campus of the EUI, we have decided to keep all our meetings online on Zoom. The events are therefore open to anyone from and outside of the EUI – feel free to spread the word!

Program overview:

Thursday 27 January – 16h00-18h00 CET / Zoom

Visual Methodology in Migration Studies

Joint session with the Migration Working Group and CERC Migration

Wednesday 23 February – 16h00-17h30 CET / Zoom

Methodological Triangulation

Wednesday 9 March – 16h00-17h30 CET / Zoom

Combining Political Theory and Ethnography

Joint session with the Legal and Political Theory Working Group

Wednesday 30 March – 16h00-17h30 CET / Zoom

The Practice of Interviewing

Wednesday 20 April – 16h00-17h30 CET / Zoom

The Ethics of Hidden Agendas

Thursday 5 May – 16h00-17h30 CET / Zoom

Grounded Theory in Political Science

Thursday 27th January
16:00 - 18:00 CET, via Zoom

Visual Methodology in Migration studies

Joint session with the Migration Working Group and CERC Migration

Presentation of the book "Visual Methodology in Migration Studies. New Possibilities, Theoretical Implications, and Ethical Questions", edited by Karolina Nikielska-Sekula and Amandine Desille and published by Springer in 2021. The volume was the winner of The Annual Competitive Call for Books IMISCOE Springer Series prize in 2019.

The book explores the use of visual methodologies in migration studies through a combination of different disciplinary approaches and case studies, which include experimentations, trial-and-error and self-ethnographies. Multidisciplinary in character, this book is an interesting read for students and migration scholars who engage with visual methods, as well as practitioners, journalists, filmmakers, photographers, curators of exhibitions who engage with a topic of migration visually.

Together with the editors and four invited authors, this session will explore the four dimensions the book: places and bodies; storytelling; participation; and representation. We encourage everyone to flip through it **HERE** before the workshop, and we look forward to a lively discussion with the authors and audience.

Program:

- 16.05-16.20** Visual methodologies in Migration Studies: Introductory remarks by the editors
16.20-16.30 Franz Buhr – Migrants' mental maps: Unpacking inhabitants' practical knowledges in Lisbon
16.30-16.40 Sanderien Verstappe – Ethnocinematographic Theory. How to Develop Migration Theory Through Ethnographic Filmmaking
16.40-16.50 Karolína Augustová – Photovoice as a Research Tool of the "Game" Along the "Balkan Route"
16.50-17.00 Tina Magazzini – In the Eye of the Beholder? Minority Representation and the Politics of Culture
17:00-17:15 Alice Massari – Discussant
17.15-18.00 Q&A Session

Speakers:

Karolina Nikielska-Sekula (Jagiellonian University)	Amandine Desille (University of Bordeaux)
Franz Buhr (University of Lisbon)	Sanderien Verstappen (University of Vienna)
Karolína Augustová (Aston University)	Tina Magazzini (EUI)
Alice Massari (Ryerson University)	

Wednesday 23rd February
16:00 - 17:30 CET; via Zoom

Methodological Triangulation

In the second session of this term Prof Victor de Munck (Vilnius University) and Ines Gil Torras (European University Institute) will present their ongoing project on “Courtship and romantic love in a cross-cultural perspective”. This longitudinal research implements an impressive form of methodological triangulation combining semi-structured interviews, analysis of live-narratives, free listings, pile sorting, sequence making and surveys. The speakers will concentrate on explaining the rationale of employing such an array of research methods, its advantages and disadvantages, and finally practical considerations required for operationalization of this study set up.

We invite everyone to familiarize themselves with the project by reading the first two publications deriving from the research:

- Torras, I.G. and de Munck, V., 2020. Cross-cultural analysis of prototypes of courtship processes: turkey, us, lithuania, and spain. *Journal of Globalization Studies*, 11(2), pp.00-00.
- de Munck, V. and Torras, I.G., Forthcoming. From Courtship to Contingent Intimacies: Courtship Practices in the United States. *Journal of Anthropological Research*.

Speakers:

Prof Victor de Munck (Vilnius University)

Ines Gil Torras (European University Institute)

Wednesday 9th March
16:00 - 17:30 CET, via Zoom

Combining Political Theory and Ethnography

Joint session with the Legal and Political Theory Working Group

What is the role of qualitative data in the field of political theory? More precisely, how can we do political theory with an “ethnographic sensibility”? In this session, co-organized with the LPTWG, we aim at bridging political theory with qualitative methods and discuss to what ends it can be used and how one can do it in practice.

For this session, we will receive Professor Bernardo Zacka, who will share with us his reflections on how, as a political theorist, he decided to do fieldwork. Bernardo Zacka has written about this topic from a methodological point of view (if and how fieldwork matters in political theory) and applied it to his own research. In 2017, he published the book *When the State Meets the Street*, which examines the everyday moral life of street-level bureaucrats, the frontline public service workers who are the face of the state and he is currently working on a project on the interior architecture of welfare offices.

We invite everyone to familiarize themselves with the topic of the session through these readings:

(TBC)

Speaker:

Bernardo Zacka (MIT Political Science)

Wednesday 30th March
16:00 - 17:30 CET; via Zoom

The Practice of Interviewing

Joint session with the Interviewing and Oral History Working Group

How do we elicit people's meaning about social ideas through interviews? What practices help us during interviews to elicit meaning? In this session, co-organized with the IOHWG, we invite an expert on interpretive interviews to discuss with us both the theory behind such methodology and practical tips towards it.

Details and Speaker: TBC

Wednesday 20th April
16:00 - 17:30 CET, via Zoom

The Ethics of Hidden Agendas

In field research, we are often forced to hide aspects of our research from our participants. This begs the question of what the ethics of such hidden agendas are, and what best practices we can identify. To answer these questions, we invite two field researchers, one working with ethnographic methods and the other with experiments, to talk about the subject from their respective standpoints.

Details and Speakers: TBC

Thursday 5th May

16:00 - 17:30 CET; via Zoom

Grounded Theory in Political Science

Grounded Theory is an established approach to inductive theory generation. It advocates a continuous comparative method for (usually) qualitative data analyses resulting in the discovery of theory from data. The systematic approach has been effectively used in many social science disciplines, yet it remains scarcely used in political sciences. In this session we ask: how can we effectively apply grounded theory approach in political science research? What are the pros and cons of the approach and the best examples of its use in political science? We will discuss these questions with a help of an established scholar specialising in grounded theory.

Details and Speaker: TBC