

Participant Observation: Practical Issues**Dr. Kevin Caffrey****Thursday, March 27th, 7-9pm, Hilles (SOCH) Social Studies Conference Room 1**

What is ethnographic fieldwork? How can students get the most out of this methodology during summer research? In this workshop, we will first define ethnographic fieldwork and then focus on some of the operational and theoretical issues associated with conducting such research. We will discuss questions such as how to set up a field-site, considerations of safety and location, as well as how to prepare to engage a different cultural context. In addition to abstractions like "objectivity," we will think about forms of documentation and the role social categories (preconceived and otherwise) can play in this endeavor and also attend to the key issue of field notes. This workshop will be based on the research students are planning to conduct. Everyone should come to this session with a 5 minute introduction of their project, should be able to generally describe their field site (even though this may be a moving target), and come prepared with a list of at least ten questions (which will be handed in at the beginning of the workshop).

**Quantitative Methods Workshop,
Andy Hall (Government)****Friday, March 28, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, CGIS K-031**

Quantitative research requires bringing data to bear on a question of interest. How do you gather data? How do you organize it? How do you analyze it? Come to this workshop to see an overview of how to tackle these goals. Andy Hall, an experienced graduate student and member of Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Science, will lead a workshop designed to acquaint Harvard undergraduates with the basics of quantitative research in the social sciences, with a focus on standard regression models. All prospective thesis writers are welcome to attend. Please note that the point of this event is not to teach statistics to students, but to help those with some background determine when and how to apply statistical methods to their research question.

Content Analysis: How to Collect and Analyze Media and Other Qualitative Sources of Data**Dr. Lisa Stampnitzky****Thursday, April 3rd, 7-9pm, Hilles (SOCH) Social Studies Conference Room 1**

This workshop will introduce students to some of the multitude of ways that researchers make use of media (including newspapers, television, and websites) as sources of data. Topics covered will include: what sorts of questions can you ask and answer using media sources? How can you collect or access existing collections of qualitative data to answer your research question? What are some ways of analyzing qualitative data (including quantitative and qualitative methods of content analysis, as well as techniques of visual representation)? Students should come prepared to discuss their research interests.

Conducting Qualitative Interviews

Dr. Nicole Newendorp

Friday, April 11th, 10am-noon, Hilles (SOCH) Social Studies Conference Room 1

OR Monday, April 28th, 4-6pm, Hilles (SOCH) Social Studies Conference Room 1

In this workshop, I will introduce students to the process of conducting qualitative interviews. We will tackle some basic considerations in planning an interview-based methodology for your thesis research, including choosing an interview format, contacting interviewees, and discussing the pros and cons of recording interviews. Particular attention will be paid to ethical considerations in collecting data from people of different cultural and class backgrounds, along with how your status as a Harvard student and researcher may influence your relationships with interviewees and the quality of the data that you collect.

Historical Methods

Dr. Brendan Karch

Wednesday, April 16th, 4-6pm, Bolyston G07

This workshop will introduce students to methods of historical research and modes of historical writing. It will cover the basics of accessing, sifting through, and gleaning information from archival documents and printed primary sources. It will discuss key approaches to social, cultural, and intellectual history, and lead students through an exercise in interpreting and interrogating primary sources. Students should come with a set of questions they hope to have answered, and be prepared to discuss their research interests. Students will be provided with a bibliography of readings in historical methodology.

How to Approach, Research, and Ultimately Write a Theory Thesis

Dr. Carla Yumatle

Friday April 18th, 2-4pm, Hilles (SOCH) Penthouse 13

This workshop will provide a brief overview of the methodological issues involved in a theory-based thesis, that is, a project which mainly deals with a philosophical and/or theoretical problem, or primarily interrogates ideas, concepts, and arguments by a specific author or more. Topics include 1) important questions a theory thesis should address, 2) some common pitfalls to avoid, and 3) research tips that maximize efficiency and save time.

An Introduction to Spatial Analysis, Mapping, and Community Data Resources

Dr. Matthew Kaliner (Sociology)

Wednesday, April 23rd, 7-9pm, Robinson 107

This workshop will introduce you to basic spatial analysis and mapping strategies to help you identify cases to study, discover patterns in your research, contextualize your findings, and present your work in visually compelling ways. We will start with *Social Explorer*, *World Map*, and the Census's *American Fact Finder*, demonstrating how to find the demographic profile of a community, its segregation level, or its patterns of change over time. You will learn how to create maps within these programs for inclusion in your thesis or tutorial paper, and how to find geographical datasets for further analysis. We will conclude by considering how spatial analysis can complement an ethnographic or historical project.