

ARTS-L0108: Methods of gathering qualitative data, 4 cr

Teacher in charge, Eeva Berglund, eeva.berglund@aalto.fi

Note, Prof Berglund will try to answer emails as best she can, but the best way to catch her will be before and after teaching sessions.

Teaching assistant, Mirko Wittka, mirko.wittka@aalto.fi

7.1. - 24.1. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:15 - 12. Väre Q202

Course Content

This intensive doctoral level course gives students in the School of Arts, Design and Architecture an understanding of the main methods of gathering or generating qualitative data and managing it. It will help them think critically but constructively about what 'data' is and how it can be used, and about its relationship to analysis and other forms of intellectual work.

It gives practical experience in preparing for and carrying out field research related to human behaviour and institutions. The course is designed so that students build up a small body of material using the full range of methods introduced. This will later be analysed on the Methods of Analysing Data course, ARTS-L0104, taught by Annamari Vänskä.

Work load

Study time appr. 108 h

-lectures and seminars: 24 h

-reading 24 h

-independent and group work: 60 h

Teaching sessions: Contact time will consist of lectures and practical activities. Students must attend 80% of classes unless separately agreed in advance with the teacher. Provide advance notification of absence, and if you miss more than one session, expect to be asked for documentation of legitimate reasons.

Readings are divided into compulsory and background texts. You should read them **before** class. Readings will be provided on MyCourses unless they are available online and/or in the library.

Deliverables and requirements

All students will have to submit assignments for marking as follows:

- 1) a portfolio of examples of gathered data with explanatory essay. Due midnight 26.1.2019 (max 1400 words, 50% of grade, 0-5)
- 2) independent assignment, by midnight 15.1.2019 (pass/fail)
- 3) group assignment (joint work, pass/fail)

Upload assignments (those for grading only) onto My Courses. Make sure to include your name and other details on all submitted work, and please put your surname in the document title. Assessment criteria: 1) evidence of thoughtful and creative use of appropriate methods in practice; 2) evidence of intellectual and creative engagement with, as well as critical reflection on, the relevant method as well as some of the literature about it; 3) quality and clarity in the articulation and communication of what has been learned; 4) systematic and clear presentation, both textual and visual.

The tasks and exercises are numbered for convenience only. You should keep doing exercises individually and jointly, and filing your materials for later use throughout the course.



Leah Fusco runs *Drawing Water* workshop at RGS-IGB conference, Cardiff, 2018

WEEK 1

Mon 7.1. 1) Observing and documenting human behaviour

Newell, Stephanie et al. 2018. 'Dirty methods as ethical methods? In the field with "The Cultural Politics of Dirt In Africa, 1880 – Present"' In *Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Research Methods*, Celia Lury et al. eds.

Additional readings:

Freeman, Melissa (2014) 'The Hermeneutical Aesthetics of Thick Description', *Qualitative Inquiry*, Vol. 20(6): 827 – 833. [I really recommend this short and thoughtful piece.]

Walford, Geoffrey (2009) 'The practice of writing ethnographic fieldnotes', *Ethnography and Education*, 4:2, 117-130.

Doloughan, Fiona J. (2002) 'The language of reflective practice in art and design', *Design Issues*, Vol.18(2): 57-64.

Geertz, Clifford (1973) 'Thick description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture', in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York: Basic Books. [Available in libraries and online.]

Feyerabend, Paul (1988) *Against Method*. [Available in various editions in libraries and online.]

Exercise 2: Schedule (and later do) an interview on the topic of home (or related to your thesis topic). Detail to follow. Submit on MyCourses by midnight 15.1.

Tues 8.1. 2) Interviewing basics, including access and ethics

Compulsory pre-reading: Warren, Carol A. B. (2001, 2011) 'Qualitative interviewing', in Jaber F. Gubrium & James A. Holstein (eds) *SAGE Handbook of Interview Research*.

Additional readings

Sinha, Shamsar and Les Back (2014) 'Making methods sociable: dialogue, ethics and authorship in qualitative research', *Qualitative Research*, Vol. 14(4): 473-487.

Leavy, Patricia (2017) Chapter 2 'Ethics in Social Research', in *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches*. <https://aalto.finna.fi/Record/alli.798308>

Gorman, Richard (2017) 'Changing Ethnographic Mediums: The Place-based Contingency of Smart Phones And Scratch Notes', *Area*, 2017, 49.2, 223 – 229.

Atkinson, Paul & Silverman, David (1997) Kundera's Immortality: the interview society and the invention of the self. *Qualitative Inquiry* 3(3): 304–325.

Silverman, David (2017) 'How was it for you? The Interview Society and the irresistible rise of the (poorly analyzed) interview', *Qualitative Research*, Vol.17(2): 144-158.

Exercise 3: Devise a filing system and provide a short guide to it that a colleague would understand.

Thur 10.1. 3) Interviewing 2, including note-taking and organising notes

Compulsory pre-reading: Evans, James & Phil Jones (2011) 'The walking interview: Methodology, mobility and place', *Applied Geography*, 31: 849-858.

Additional readings:

Woodward, Sophie (2016) 'Object interviews, material imaginings and "unsettling" methods: interdisciplinary approaches to understanding materials and material culture', *Qualitative Research*, Vol. 16(4): 359-374.

Kusenbach, Margarethe (2003) 'Street phenomenology: The go-along as ethnographic research tool'. *Ethnography* 4.3 (2003): 455-485. (reproduced in *SAGE Qualitative Research Methods*, 2011)

McRobbie, Angela (2016) 'Towards a sociology of fashion micro-enterprises: Methods for creative economy research', *Sociology*, Vol.50(5): 934-948.

Douglas-Jones, Rachel (2017) 'Notes from inside a twitter experiment', #Colleex network for ethnographic experimentation blog: <http://allegralaboratory.net/notes-from-inside-a-twitter-experiment-collex/>

Sanjek, Roger (1990) 'A Vocabulary for Fieldnotes', in *Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology*.

Woodward, S. (2016) ' "Humble" blue jeans: Material culture approaches to understanding the ordinary, global, and the personal', in Heike Jenss (ed.) *Fashion Studies*, <https://aalto.finna.fi/Record/alli.721891>

Exercise 4: Do a walk-along or object interview in class. Afterwards, write it up as a *transcript* from recordings and/or written notes. See how much you can get done in 1 hour.



Civilian conservation corps surveying 1937 by HC Frayer / <https://www.flickr.com/photos/foresthstory/3663520870>

WEEK 2

Mon 14.1. 4) Cultural probes and speculative objects, by Guy Julier

Compulsory pre-reading: Gaver, Bill; Tony Dunne; Elena Pacenti (1999) 'Cultural Probes', *Interaction*, Jan-Feb 1999.

Additional readings:

Morrison, A., Tronstad, R., & Martinussen, E. S. (2013). Design notes on a lonely drone. *Digital Creativity*, 24(1), 46-59.

Corsin Jiménez, A. (2013). "Introduction: the prototype, more than many and less than one." *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 7(4): 381-398.

Also of interest: Boehner, Kirsten; William Gaver; Andy Boucher (2012) 'Probes', in Wakeford, Nina and Celia Lury (eds) *Inventive Methods*.

Exercise 5 in class, followed by group work (no more than three in a group). Devise and document a probe kit. Task 6 is to report on the exercise and will be submitted to MyCourses, due 2.2. Detail to follow.

Tue 15.1. 5) Documents, objects and other research participants

Compulsory pre-reading: Marres, Noortje (2012) 'Experiment: the experiment in living', in Wakeford, Nina and Celia Lury (eds) *Inventive Methods*.

Additional readings: Klepp, Ingun Grimstad and Mari Bjerck (2014) 'A methodological approach to the materiality of clothing: Wardrobe studies', *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, Vol 17(4): 373-386.

Hoskins, Janet (2006) 'Agency, biography and objects', in *Handbook of material culture*, 74-84.

Tamboukou, Maria (2014) 'Archival research: unravelling space/time/matter entanglements and fragments', *Qualitative Research*, Vol14(5): 617-633.

Freire, P. (2000) *Pedagogy of the oppressed*.

Openjuru, G. L. et al. (2015) 'Despite knowledge democracy and community-based participatory action research: Voices from the global south and excluded north still missing', *Action Research*, Vol. 13(3): 219-229.

Note, your interview notes (NOT a transcript) are due by midnight 15.1.! (Exercise 2)

Exercise 7 Deepen the pre-course task you carried out (for instance with an inventory, audit or object interview). Write it into fieldnotes together with your own reflections.

Thur 17.1. 6) Visual methods: Anna Kholina, PhD candidate, DoD

Compulsory: Pink, S. (2007). Walking with video. *Visual Studies*, 22(3), 240–252.
<http://doi.org/10.1080/14725860701657142>

Additional readings: Brice, S. (2017). Situating skill: contemporary observational drawing as a spatial method in geographical research. *Cultural Geographies*, 147447401770251.

<http://doi.org/10.1177/1474474017702513>

Pink, S., Sumartojo, S., Lupton, D., & Heyes LaBond, C. (2017). Empathetic technologies: digital materiality and video ethnography. *Visual Studies*, 32(4), 371–381.

<http://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2017.1396192>

Pink, S. (2011). Sensory digital photography: re-thinking “moving” and the image. *Visual Studies*, 26(1), 4–13. <http://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2011.548484>

You may also appreciate Emmison, M. and Smith, P. (2000) “Researching the Visual: Images, Objects, Contexts and Interactions in Social and Cultural Inquiry”. E-book

<https://aalto.finna.fi/Record/alli.674387>

Exercise 8

Building on the data gathering you have done so far (extending or deepening what you already have), generate and compile some appropriate visual data. This can be produced by yourself digitally or otherwise and it can be gathered from existing publications (including online). Really, the only limitations on this task are your imagination and ability to connect the visual to your pre-existing explorations.

WEEK 3

Mon 21.1. 7) Ethnographies and being ethnographic

Compulsory reading: Estalella, A. and A. Corsín Jiménez (2016) 'Matters of sense: Preoccupation in Madrid's popular assemblies movement', in A. Blok and I. Farías (eds) *Urban cosmopolitics: Agencements, assemblies, atmospheres*, Routledge.

Additional readings: Waltorp, Karen (2018) 'Fieldwork as interface: digital technologies, moral worlds and zones of encounter', in Estalella, A. & T.S. Criado (eds) *Experimental Collaborations: Ethnography through fieldwork devices*.

Back, Les (2007) *The Art of Listening* (I especially recommend the Introduction and Epilogue.)

Kubitschko, Sebastian and Anne Kaun (2016) 'An introduction to innovative methods in media and communication research', in Kubitschko and Kaun (eds) *Innovative Methods in Media and Communication Research*.

Moon, C. H. (2016) 'Ethnographic entanglements: memory and narrative in the global fashion industry', in Heike Jenss (ed.) *Fashion Studies*, <https://aalto.finna.fi/Record/alli.721891>

Fujii, Lee Ann (2015) 'Five stories of accidental ethnography: turning unplanned moments in the field into data', *Qualitative Research*, Vol.15(4): 525-239.

Leigh Star, Susan (1999) 'The ethnography of infrastructure', *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43(3): 377-391.



1st #Colleex (Collaboratory for ethnographic experimentation) workshop, Lisbon July 2017

Tue 21.1 **8) Research and politics in experimental times**

Compulsory Mohanty, Chandra Talpade “Under Western Eyes” Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles, *Signs*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (Winter 2003), pp. 499-535

Additional readings: Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1986. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses.” *Boundary 2* 12(3):333–58. Reproduced in *Feminist Review*, No. 30, 1988.
Wilkie, Alex (2018) ‘Speculating’, *Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Research Methods*, Celia Lury et al. eds.

Criado, Tomàs Sánchez and Israel Rodríguez-Giralt (2017) Chapter Eleven, ‘Caring through Design?: En torno a la silla and the “Joint Problem-Making” of Technical Aids’, In *Care and Design: Bodies, Buildings, Cities*, Charlotte Bates, Rob Imrie, Kim Kullman (eds).

Halse, Joachim and Laura Boffi (2016) ‘Design interventions as a form of inquiry’, in Smith, R. C.; K. T. Vangkilde; M. G. Kjaersgaard; T. Otto; J. Halse; T. Binder (eds) 2016 *Design Anthropological Futures*, London & New York: Bloomsbury. (And any of the other chapters in the book!)

Antonia Darder, Tom G. Griffiths (2018) ‘Revisiting “Can the subaltern speak?”: introduction’, *Qualitative Research Journal*, Vol. 18 Issue: 2, pp.82-88.

Thur 23.1 **9) Focus groups**

Finch, Helen and Jane Lewis (2003) ‘Focus Groups’, Ritchie & Lewis *Qualitative Research Practice*.

Make sure you have stored the material you have generated in a form that you can retrieve and make sense of later!!