

Seminar for Intensive Fieldwork Training (SIFT)

University of Texas at Austin – Government
February 7, February 28, April 10, and April 17 10:00am-12:30pm
May 11-15, 2020 8:00am-12:00pm
GOV 391K (Unique # 38323)

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COURSE INFORMATION and POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

- Course participants are required to attend each class session.
- Course participants are encouraged to ask questions in order to maximize the usefulness of the course. Questions tightly and uniquely relevant to participants' own research projects should be posed to the instructor during breaks or office hours.

Readings

- Required readings listed for each day are to be completed *before* that day's class.
- Readings listed as "For Reference" are not required for the course, but rather are listed and provided purely for your reference.
- "KMR" refers to Kapiszewski, MacLean, and Read, and "*FRPS*" refers to their book, *Field Research in Political Science* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).
 - Strongly are encouraged to buy this book in advance of the course.
- With the exception of chapters from *FRPS*, all readings are available in the shared folders for each respective university:
 - University of Texas: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fF2VRCCH-v4djgTZt6CQevP18COPgTdF>

Assignments

- This course includes writing assignments, the majority of which involve creating materials that you will use in the field.
 - These assignments are to be submitted to the instructors 24 hours before the class meeting.
- Students are encouraged to email the instructor with questions as they are completing these assignments, and to discuss the assignments with the instructor.

COURSE CONTENT

Friday, February 7

Boundaries and Varieties of Fieldwork

Readings – For Reference

- Barrett, Christopher B. and Jeffrey W. Cason. 2010. “Identifying a Site and Funding Source” and “Predeparture Preparations.” Chapters 2 and 3 in *Overseas Research II: A Practical Guide*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Collier, David. 1999. “Data, Field Work and Extracting New Ideas at Close Range.” *APSA – CP Newsletter* 10(1): 1-6.
- Hauck, Robert, ed. 2008. “Symposium: Protecting Human Research Participants, IRBs and Political Science Redux.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 41(3): 475-511.
- KMR. 2015. “Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles.” Chapter 1 in *FRPS*.
- Loaeza, Soledad, Randy Stevenson, and Devra C. Moehler, 2005. “Symposium: Should Everyone Do Fieldwork?” *APSA-CP Newsletter* 16(2): 8-18.
- Przeworski, Adam and Frank Salomon. 1995. “On the Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions,” Social Science Research Council.

Friday, February 28

Their Projects, Our Experiences

Friday, April 10

Preparing for Fieldwork – IRB and University of Texas Bureaucracy

Friday, April 17

Preparing for Fieldwork – Institutional Affiliation and Host Country Bureaucracy

Monday, May 11

Session 1: Operating in the Field

- The dual role of the field researcher
- Logistical challenges
- Substantive challenges
- Basics of data collection
- Q&A

Session 2: Types of Data Collection; Less-Interactive Data Collection

- Types of data collection: challenges and analytic upsides/downsides
- Combining data-collection techniques
- Continuing with the DCP
- Less-interactive data collection: archival research and collecting pre-existing material
- Capturing data gathered through non-interactive techniques
- Q&A

Readings – Required

- KMR. 2015. “Managing in the Field: Logistical, Social, Operational, and Ethical Challenges.” Chapter 4 in *FRPS*.
- KMR. 2015. “Thinking Outside the (Archive) Box: Discovering Data in the Field.” Chapter 5 in *FRPS*.

Readings – For Reference

- Carapico, Sheila, Janine A. Clark, Amaney Jamal, David Romano, Jilian Schwedler, and Mark Tessler. 2006. “Symposium: The Methodologies of Field Research in the Middle East.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39(3): 417-441.
- Lustick, Ian. 1996. “History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias.” *The American Political Science Review* 90(3): 605-618.
- Schaeffer, Nora Cate and Stanley Presser. 2003. “The Science of Asking Questions.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 65-88.

Tuesday, May 12

Session 1: Forms of More-Interactive Data Collection

- Ethnography/participant observation
- Oral histories
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Experiments
- Q&A

Session 2: Interviewing

- Basics of developing an interview protocol
- Pitching, negotiating, and setting up interviews
- Conducting interviews
- Carrying out follow-up tasks
- Evaluating evidentiary value of data garnered through human interactions
- Q&A

Readings – Required

- Brady, Henry E. 2000. “Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33(1): 47-57.

- KMR. 2015. “Interviews, Oral Histories, and Focus Groups.” Chapter 6 in *FRPS*.

Readings – For Reference

- Bleich, Erik and Robert Pekkanen. 2013. “How to Report Interview Data.” Chapter 4 in Layna Mosley, ed., *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- KMR. 2015. “Site-Intensive Methods: Ethnography and Participant Observation.” Chapter 7 in *FRPS*.
- KMR. 2015. “Surveys in the Context of Field Research.” Chapter 8 in *FRPS*.
- KMR. 2015. “Experiments in the Field.” Chapter 9 in *FRPS*.
- Kubik, Jan. 2009. “Ethnography of Politics: Foundations, Applications, Prospects.” In Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Leech, Beth and Kenneth Goldstein. 2002. “Symposium: Interview Methods in Political Science,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 35(4): 663-672.
- Paluck, Elizabeth Levy. 2010. “The Promising Integration of Qualitative Methods and Field Experiments.” *ANNALS, AAPSS*, 628: 59-71.
- Tansey, Oisín. 2007. “Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-Probability Sampling,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40(4): 765-772.
- Wedeen, Lisa. 2010. “Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 255-272.

Wednesday, May 13

Session 1: Organizing and Managing Data

- Techniques for keeping thoughts, contacts, and data organized while in the field
- Data management – processes, considerations, benefits
- Documentation and metadata
- Data management planning
- Q&A

Session 2: Sharing Data

- Why share data, why not share data?
- Sharing data in an institutionalized venue
- Ethical and legal concerns (e.g., informed consent *for sharing*, confidentiality, privacy)
- Q&A

Readings – Required

- Qualitative Data Repository. (2017) “Managing Data” (including all sub-screens).
 - <https://qdr.syr.edu/guidance/managing>
- Van den Eynden, Verlee, Louise Corti, Matthew Woollard, Libby Bishop, and Lauren Horton. 2011. *Managing and Sharing Research Data*. Essex: UK Data Archive.

Readings – For Reference

- Bishop, L. 2009. “Ethical Sharing and Re-Use of Qualitative Data.” *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, 44(3): 255-272.

- Clark, Andrew. 2006. “Anonymising Research Data.” ESRC National Centre for Research Methods, Working Paper 7/06.
- ICPSR (2014) ‘Framework for Creating a Data Management Plan’, University of Michigan
 - <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/datamanagement/dmp/framework.html>
- Tsai, Alexander C., Brandon A. Kohrt, Lynn T. Matthews, Theresa S. Betancourt, Jooyoung K. Lee, Andrew V. Papachristos, Sheri D. Weiser, and Shari L. Dworkin. 2016. “Promises and pitfalls of data sharing in qualitative research. *Social Science & Medicine*, 169: 191–198.
- Wutich, Amber and Russell Bernard. 2016. “Sharing qualitative data & analysis. With whom and how widely?: A response to ‘Promises and pitfalls of data sharing in qualitative research.’” *Social Science & Medicine*, 169: 199–200.
- Resource on Fair Use
 - <http://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Thursday, May 14

Session 1: Analyzing Data and Research Transparency

- Beginning to analyze data while they are being collected in the field
- Iteration among data collection, analysis, and research design
- Research Transparency
- Annotation for Transparent Inquiry
- Q&A

Session 2: Adjusting, Assessing Progress, and Wrapping Up

- Determining need for adjustment and adjusting research projects in the field
- Assessing progress while carrying out field research
- Challenges of re-entry and maintaining momentum with the research project
- Q&A
- Course evaluations (10 minutes)

Readings – Required

- KMR. 2015. “Analyzing, Writing, and Retooling in the Field.” Chapter 10 in *FRPS*.
- Lee, Raymond M. and Nigel G. Fielding. 2004. “Tools for Qualitative Data Analysis.” Chapter 23 in Melissa Hardy and Alan Bryman, *Handbook of Data Analysis*. London: Sage.

Readings – For Reference

- Elman, Colin and Diana Kapiszewski. 2014. “Data Access and Research Transparency in the Qualitative Tradition.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 47(01): 43-47.
- Emerson, Robert, Rachel Fretz and Linda Shaw. 1995. “Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing.” Chapter 6 in *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- KMR. 2015. “The Future of Field Research in Political Science.” Chapter 11 in *FRPS*.

- Qualitative Data Repository. 2017. “ATI At A Glance”
 - <https://qdr.syr.edu/guidance/ati-at-a-glance>
- Qualitative Transparency Deliberations
 - <https://www.qualtd.net/>

Final Assignment – Due by 5:00pm

- Submit ‘portfolio’ of fieldwork-relevant materials – e.g., IRB protocol, interview questions, and survey questions.

Friday, May 15

Discussion of Student Projects