



METHODOLOGY AND EPISTEMOLOGY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

METHODOLOGY SEMINAR 2023/2024

In the second semester of the academic year 2023/24, the course *Methodology and Epistemology of Social Sciences* continues with a series of seminars, where selected topics from lectures will be considered with greater detail and/or presented more practically with examples.

You can find a detailed schedule of the seminars below.

All students who wish to participate in methodology seminar must [register here](#) before **March 13, 2024**.

1. METHODOLOGY SEMINAR IN STATISTICS

Seminar in statistical data analysis

The seminar will be adapted to students' previous knowledge and needs. It may cover selected topics from descriptive statistics to inferential statistics, as well as univariate, bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis. We may as well introduce students to various software for statistical data analysis. We suggest students bring their own data to work on.

Seminar in survey data analysis

The seminar will be adapted to students' previous knowledge and needs. It will be practically oriented in order to help students prepare their own survey questionnaires. We may introduce students to an online tool for web surveys (1ka.arnes.si), available for the students of the UL.

DATE	HOURL	LECTURER	TOPIC
Monday 18. 3. (FDV-25)	17.00 -- 20.00	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katja Lozar Manfreda, Prof. Dr. Aleš Žiberna	Statistical data analysis*
Thursday 21. 3. (FDV-25)	17:00 – 20:00	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katja Lozar Manfreda, Prof. Dr. Aleš Žiberna	Statistical data analysis*
Monday 25. 3. (FDV-25)	17:00 – 20:00	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Katja Lozar Manfreda	Survey data analysis*

*If needed, an additional date will be added upon agreement with interested students.



2. METHODOLOGY SEMINAR ON ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

From Ethnography to Digital Ethnography

Ethnography is a qualitative research approach, and its main purpose is to describe, interpret and understand the shared patterns, values, and beliefs of a selected group of participants within a particular social and cultural setting. It is also a highly reflexive method, primarily focused on a specific social situation. It is based on short- or long-term participant observation and additional in-depth qualitative data drawn from personal or group interviews, oral histories, shared documents, and various visual materials.

Ethnography is the study of cultural and social phenomena from the point of view of the subjects. A prominent approach in social research, ethnography involves the analysis of participants' behaviours, practices, or experiences, as well as their relationships, localities, events, and wider social worlds. The method is also used to study groups and organisations of various kinds. Its origins are in social and cultural anthropology, but it is also widely used in other social disciplines, especially sociology and communication studies. With the prominence of digital technologies and social media, a new wave of 'virtual' or 'digital ethnography' has emerged, exploring the consequences of digital media in shaping social worlds and personal behaviour.

The aim of this set of seminars is twofold:

- a) To introduce this diverse and reflexive approach to qualitative research and
- b) to inform students about the main assumptions, aims and methods used in ethnographic research.

The complete set of 5 two-hours seminars with narrowly focused topics, research frameworks and data set will demonstrate its potential for analyzing diverse social, political, and cultural phenomena. Finally, the seminar aims to show the relevance of ethnography for a better understanding of the recently digitalised and automated society.



DATE	HOUR	LECTURER	TOPIC	READINGS
Wednesday 3. 4. (FDV-21)	16.00 -- 18.00	Prof. Dr. Tanja Oblak Črnič	Etnografija v digitalnem kontekstu / <i>Ethnography in the digital context</i>	Pink (2016): Ethnography in a digital world (see below)
Wednesday 10. 4. (FDV-21)	16:00 – 18:00	Assist. Dr. Marko Ribač & Assist. Prof. Dr. Sandi Abram	Etnografsko raziskovanje institucij, družbenih struktur in neenakosti: študija primera slovenskih televizij / Etnografsko raziskovanje javnih prostorov: primer alternativnega prostora Plac	Wacquant (2004): Following Pierre Bourdieu into the field (see below) Przybylski (2021): Hybrid ethnography: online, offline, and in between (see below).
Tuesday 16. 4. (FDV-21)	16:00 – 18:00	Prof. Dr. Tanja Oblak Črnič	Etnografsko raziskovanje družbenih odnosov skozi medijske prakse in vsakdan / <i>Ethnography of media practices and relationships in everyday life</i>	Pink (2016): Chapter Researching practices / Chapter Researching relationships (see below)
Friday 26. 4. (FDV-21)	16:00 – 18:00	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bojana Lobe	Pozicioniranje v online in offline etnografiji / <i>Positionality in Online and Offline Ethnography</i>	Fujii (2017): Building working relationships (see below)
Wednesday 8. 5. (FDV-21)	16:00 – 18:00	Prof. DDr. Aljoša Pužar	Post-kvalitativni pristopi: afekti v raziskovanju / <i>Post-qualitative approaches: Analysing affect</i>	Vannini (2011): Non Representational Theory and Ethnography (see below)

Literature:

- Fujii, L. A. (2017): Interviewing in Social Science Research. Chapter 2: Building working relationships. New York: Routledge.
- Pink, S. et al. (2016): Digital Ethnography Principles and Practice. London: Sage.
- Przybylski, Liz (2021): Hybrid Ethnography: Online, offline, and in between. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Vannini, Ph., (2011), Non Representational Theory and Ethnography. https://www.academia.edu/693096/Non_Representational_Theory_and_Ethnography
- Wacquant, Loïc (2004): Following Pierre Bourdieu into the Field. Ethnography 5 (4): 387–414.



3. METHODOLOGY SEMINAR ON MIXED METHOD RESEARCH

During the seminar sessions we will explore the Explanatory Design in detail and in practical application. The explanatory design is a two-phase mixed methods design. One starts with quantitative data collection and analysis. The second phase follows from (or connect to) the results of quantitative study with collection and analysis of qualitative data. The overall purpose is to help to explain or build upon initial quantitative results by qualitative data. We will dive into the Participant Selection Model, which is particularly suited for doctoral projects. The specific format of the design is that we use secondary survey data for the first phase and complete the design with primary data collection in the second stage. The seminar will comprise of two parts, first theoretical and second practical. After the presentation of the Participant Selection Model, students will design their own study, find secondary survey data, conduct basic statistical analysis and then design the guidelines for the follow-up interview or focus groups research. Students can work in groups or individually. Students are obliged to find suitable secondary survey data, conduct basic statistical analysis, design and discuss guidelines for qualitative follow-up phase.

DATE	HOUR	LECTURER	TOPIC
Tuesday 14. 5. (FDV-25)	17.00 – 20.00	Prof. Dr. Valentina Hlebec	Mixed methods research I: theory
Tuesday 21. 5. (FDV-25)	17:00 – 19:00	Prof. Dr. Valentina Hlebec	Mixed methods research II: practical application