



Doctoral programme The Humanities and Social Sciences 2023/24

Schedule of lectures: Methodology and Epistemology of Social Sciences

There will be 10 lectures mostly **Mondays 5 PM to 8 PM**. The planned schedule is as follows:

1. lecture, Monday, 6 November 2023:

VALENTINA HLEBEC: Social science research: an introduction

A basic introduction to social science research will be provided in order to put the lectures that follow in a more general methodological context. Basic paradigms will be presented with the emphasis on their methodological aspects, followed by characteristics of research designs and a brief overview of sampling strategies in qualitative and quantitative research.

Neuman, W. L. 2006. Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches. Boston: Pearson. (Chapters 4, 6 and 8: The meanings of methodology, Strategies of research design, Qualitative and Quantitative sampling)

2. lecture, Monday, 13 November 2023:

FRANC MALI: Epistemology of social sciences

There will be presented two basic approaches to the epistemic structure and »general methodology« of social science knowledge: naturalistic methodology and hermeneutic methodology. The first approach is based on the category of »scientific explanation« (Erklärung), the second approach is based on the category of »scientific understanding« (Verstehen). In model of scientific explanation (or prediction), the social phenomena and events should be comprehend by means of universal laws and initial conditions. This approach is based on the assumption that the basic structure of cognition in all kinds of scientific knowledge (the same in natural as well as in social sciences) are the more or less progressed forms of models of scientific explanations (deductive-nomological, inductive probabilistic, functional-teleological, genetic, analogical models). In the model of scientific understanding, which is based on subjective or objective hermeneutic tradition, the differences between the knowledge structure of social and natural sciences is strongly emphasised. Namely, according to these views »difference specific« of cognition in social sciences should be to comprehend the meaning (Sinn) of thought and actions of individual and collective social actors. In the



lecture, there will be given deep insight in the origins, forms, recent and future perspectives of both epistemological and methodological »pools« in social sciences, i.e. hermeneutic understanding and naturalistic explanation.

The recommended literature for reading:

- Mali, Franc. 2006. *Epistemologija družbenih ved*, Ljubljana: Založba FDV.
- Hollis, Martin. 1994. *The philosophy of social science*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- della Porta, Donatella and Keating, Michael (ed.). 2008. *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences (Part I: Epistemology and philosophy of the social sciences, pp. 17-162)*. Cambridge University Press.

3. lecture, Monday, 20 November 2023:

VALENTINA HLEBEC: Introduction to qualitative methods

The lecture covers the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the most common qualitative methods, such as participant observation, interviews, focus groups, case studies, archival data and visual methods. Some basic concepts of data quality evaluation in qualitative research are also covered.

Mesec, B. 1998. *Uvod v kvalitativno raziskovanje v socialnem delu*. Ljubljana: Visoka šola za socialno delo. str.

Neuman, L. 2003. *Social Research Methods*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. 390-401 (chapter *Field Research*).

4. lecture, Monday, 27 November 2023:

ILIJA TOMANIĆ TRIVUNDŽA: (Visual) content analysis

Content analysis is increasingly popular method for systematic analysis of mediated communication and is widely applied to traditional and social media. The lecture offers an introduction to the method and will focus on multimodality of mediated messages. This focus on the multimodality, particularly on inclusion of systematic analysis of visual material such as photographs is particularly important since the analysis of the visual modality of communication remains the blind spot of many academic disciplines. The lecture will practical exercise to demonstrate the challenges and limitations of coding.

Berg, Bruce L. (2001) *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. **Chapter 11**

Krippendorff, Klaus (2004) *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. **Chapters 2, 4, 9**

Neuerdorf, Kimberly (2002) *The Content analysis guidebook*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. **Chapter 7**



**5. lecture, Monday, 4 December 2023:
TINA KOGOVIŠEK: Measurement**

The lecture covers the three basic steps in quantitative measurement process (conceptualization, operationalization and measurement). Measurement quality is defined in terms of reliability and validity and different ways of their estimation are introduced.

In Slovene:

Ferligoj, A., Leskošek, K. and Kogovišek, T. 1995. Zanesljivost in veljavnost merjenja. Metodološki zvezki, 11. Ljubljana: FDV

OR

In English:

Carmines, E.G. and Zeller, R.A. 1979. Reliability and Validity Assessment. London: Sage.
Bohrstedt, G.W. 2010. Measurement models for survey research. In: P.V. Marsden and J.D. Wright (Eds.): Handbook of Survey Research. Bingley: Emerald, 347-404.

**6. lecture, Monday, 11 December 2023:
KATJA LOZAR MANFREDA: Methodological issues in survey research and web survey methodology**

The lecture gives an overview of methodological issues in survey data collection, that is collection of data using standardized questionnaires on larger samples from target populations. We focus on the theory of survey errors (sampling, nonresponse, coverage, measurement). The second part of the lecture concentrates on the methodology of web surveys as one of very popular and available survey modes.

Callegaro, M., Lozar Manfreda, K., Vehovar, V. 2015. Web survey methodology. London: Sage.

Groves et al. 2009. Survey Methodology. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley.

**7. lecture, Monday, 18 December 2023:
KATJA LOZAR MANFREDA: Introductory statistics**

The lecture is a summary of key ideas and principles of the collection, display, and analysis of data in social sciences to guide you in making valid and appropriate conclusions about the world. It will include topics like: summary statistics and graphical displays for a single categorical or quantitative variable and for relationships between two variables, sampling distributions, confidence intervals for proportions and means, tests of significance, power and



sample size estimation for proportions and means, basic bivariate analysis. In the lecture we will not teach you how to do the mentioned analysis, but rather present (and remind) you of a spectrum of basic data analysis techniques that any quantitative approach to data should include.

In English:

Agresti, A. et al. 2018. *Statistics. The art and Science of Learning from Data*. Harlow etc.: Pearson. 4th Edition.

OR

Wonnacott T. H., Wonnacott R. J. 1990. *Introductory Statistics*. New York: Wiley.

Or any other book on statistics that includes descriptive statistics (including correlation) and inference (confidence intervals and hypothesis testing).

In Slovene:

Ferligoj, A., Lozar Manfreda, K., Žiberna, A. 2018. *Osnove statistike na prosojnicah: študijsko gradivo pri predmetu Statistika*. Ljubljana: Fakulteta za družbene vede. Available in Zebra.

8. lecture, Monday, 8 January 2024:

ALEŠ ŽIBERNA: Multivariate analysis

Presentation of basic multivariate methods, incorporated in major statistical packages (eg. SPSS, SAS, STATISTICA, R). The following topics are covered in greater detail: Cluster analysis, Principal components analysis, Factor analysis, Linear regression analysis.

Tabachnick, B.G. and Fidell, L.S. 2007. *Using Multivariate Statistics*. Pearson/Allyn & Bacon., Boston. (5th edition).

Johnson, R.A. and Wichern, D.W. 2007. *Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, (6th edition).

9. lecture, Monday, 15 January 2024:

VALENTINA HLEBEC: Mixed methods research

Combining or mixing quantitative and qualitative research methods has become an advanced research practice when conceptualizing complex research questions and designing research procedures. The purpose of the lecture is to present theoretical and practical issues in designing mixed research projects. We will focus on possible research designs and their components, as well as advantages and disadvantages. Especially, we will address validity and reliability of such designs.



Creswell, J. W., Plano Clark, V. L. 2007. Designing and conducting mixed methods research. London: Sage.

Neuman, W. L. 2006. Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches. Boston: Pearson.

10. lecture, Monday, 22 January 2024:

LUKA KRONEGGER: Social network analysis

Basic topics of social network analysis are discussed: types of networks, size and density, network visualization, basic notions of graph theory, centrality measures, cohesion, 1-mode and 2-mode networks, signed networks, blockmodeling.

Literature:

Nooy, W., Mrvar, A., and Batagelj, V. 2018. Exploratory Social Network Analysis with Pajek: Revised and Expanded Edition for Updated Software. Third Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.