Doctoral programme The humanities and social sciences 2019/20

Schedule of lectures:

METODOLOGY 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, 11 November 2019:
   TINA KOGOVŠEK: 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. 2011. 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, 18 November 2019:
   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 comprehended 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, funcional-teleological, genetic, analogical models). In the model of scientific understanding, which is based on subjective or objective heremeneutic 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.


3. lecture, Monday, 25 November 2019:
JENNIE OLOFSSON: Introduction to qualitative methods

Drawing on a number of previous ethnographic fieldworks, this lecture covers the advantages and disadvantages of qualitative methods such as participant observation, interviews and visual methods. The lecture will also discuss reflexivity as an important part of social research and in particular ethnographic fieldworks.


4. lecture, Monday, 2 December 2019:
ANDREJA VEZOJNIK: Critical Discourse Analysis

The aim of the lecture is to introduce students to the basics of Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA). CDA will be explained as a methodological as well as a theoretical approach covering both of its' streams, the linguistic one and the visual-semiotic one. A basic introduction to the theoretical legacy of CDA (structuralism, poststructuralism, critical theory, pragmatics) will be followed by the explanation of how a consistent research design grounded in CDA should be developed. Students will get insight in how CDA may be applied in analyzing various qualitative data gathered from print media, new media, TV, policy documents, political talks and debates, research interviews, focus groups debates, and ethnographies. The lecture will conclude with a »hands on« demonstration of how to apply CDA to unpack the ideological structure of a particular text.

5. lecture, Monday, 9 December 2019:
TINA KOGOVŠEK: 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:

OR

In English:

6. lecture, Monday, 16 December 2019:
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.

7. lecture, Monday, 6 January 2020:
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:

OR

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

In Slovene:

8. lecture, Monday, 13 January 2020:
ALEŠ ŽIBERNA: Multivariate analysis

Presentation of basic multivariate methods, incorporated in mayor 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.


9. lecture, Monday, 20 January 2020:

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.


10. lecture, Monday, 27 January 2020:

ANDREJ MRVAR: 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:

de Nooy, W., Mrvar, A., and Batagelj, V. 2011. Exploratory Social Network Analysis with Pajek: Revised and Expanded. 2nd Editio