



## Methodology and epistemology of social sciences - 2018/19

### 1. Lecture list

Lectures will take place **from 5 p.m. till 8 p.m. in classroom 21** (1<sup>st</sup> floor, section D), except **8<sup>th</sup> lecture** which will take place in **classroom 24** (ground floor, section B)

#### 1. lecture, Monday, 5 November 2018:

Dr. FRANC MALI, professor: 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.
- Martin Hollis (1994): The philosophy of social science, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Donatella della Porta and Michael Keating (ed.) (2008): Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences (Part I: Epistemology and philosophy of the social sciences, pp. 17-162). Cambridge University Press.
- Popper, K.Rajmund (1989): Logik der Forschung. Tuebingen. Tuebingen: J.C.B. Mohr Paul Siebeck Verlag. (English: Logic of Scientific Discovery (1992), London: Routledge.
- Winch Peter (1958): The Idea of Social Sciences. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Max Weber (1968): Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Wissenschaftslehre, J.C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), Tuebingen. (English : The methodology of social sciences. (1964) New York: Free Press of Glencoe.

## **2. lecture, Monday, 19 November 2018:**

Dr. JENNIE OLOFSSON, Sen. Res. Sci.: 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.

## **3. lecture, Monday, 26 November 2018:**

dr. TINA KOGOVIŠEK, professor: 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.

## **4. lecture, Monday, 3 December 2018:**

Dr. KATJA LOZAR MANFREDA, associate professor: Introductory statistics

The lecture is a summary of key ideas and principles of the visualisation 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 visualization for a single categorical or quantitative variable and for relationships between two variables, sampling distributions, confidence intervals for proportions and means, tests of significance, basic bivariate analysis.

The recommended literature for reading:

- Wonnacott, Thomas H. ; Wonnacott, Ronald J.: Introductory statistics. 5th ed., New York [etc.] : J. Wiley, cop. 1990.
- Any book on basic statistics.

## **5. lecture, Monday, 10 December 2018:**

dr. KATJA LOZAR MANFREDA, associate professor: 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.

The recommended literature for reading:

- Groves, Robert M., Fowler Jr., Floyd J., Couper, Mick P., Lepkowski, James M., Singer, Eleanor, Tourangeau, Roger. Survey Methodology, 2nd Edition. Wiley, 2009.
- Callegaro, Mario, Lozar Manfreda, Katja, Vehovar, Vasja. Web survey methodology. Sage, 2015..

## **6. lecture, Monday, 17 December 2018:**

Dr. ILIJA TOMANIĆ TRIVUNDŽA, associate professor : (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.

## **7. lecture, Monday, 7 January 2019:**

dr. ANDREJ MRVAR, professor: 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.

The recommended literature for reading:

- de Nooy, W., Mrvar, A., and Batagelj, V. (2011): Exploratory Social Network Analysis with Pajek: Revised and Expanded. 2nd Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## **8. lecture, Monday, 14 January 2019:**

dr. VALENTINA HLEBEC, professor: 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.

The recommended literature for reading:

- 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.

## **9. lecture, Monday, 21 January 2019:**

dr. ALEŠ ŽIBERNA, associate professor: 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.

The recommended literature for reading:

- Tabachnick B.G. in Fidell. L.S. Using Multivariate Statistics. Pearson/Allyn & Bacon., Boston. 2007 (Fifth Edition)
- Johnson, R. A., & Wichern, D. W. (2007). *Applied multivariate statistical analysis*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, Pearson Education International.

## **10. lecture, TBA**

dr. VALENTINA HLEBEC, professor or TBA: The Ethics of social research

## **2. Final exam - guidelines:**

The exam is written and consists of five essay questions, focusing on the topics and literature presented at lectures. Each of the questions is from a different topic/lecture. Out of the five questions the student chooses three. To pass the exam the student has to cumulatively reach 60% of the answers to these three questions.