

ECPR SUMMER SCHOOL IN METHODS AND TECHNIQUES
Monday 7 August – Friday 18 August 2006
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Syllabus: Interpretive Methods

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This course will enable students to improve their knowledge of the different kinds of inquiries employing qualitative-interpretive methods of accessing and analyzing data as well as their theoretical underpinnings. Such methods include, e.g., participant observation/ethnography, case studies, grounded theory, and various forms of discourse analysis, including conversational analysis. These approaches share three methods for accessing data: observing (with whatever degree of participation), interviewing (informal as well as formal), and reading (e.g., legislative or agency documents). Methods of analyzing data vary depending on the data type (e.g., metaphor analysis for language, ethnomethodology for conversations or acts). The course will explore the methodological grounding for these methods, some of the methods themselves (through field exercises), and research designs.

Primary texts:

Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds., *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. Armonk, NY: M E Sharpe, 2006. *If available!!!* [YSS in syllabus]

Dvora Yanow, *Conducting interpretive policy analysis*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 2000.

Leonard Schatzman and Anselm L. Strauss, *Field Research*. NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1973. [SS in syllabus]

	Topics/Times (9-12 unless otherwise noted)	Labs/Assignments (due dates)	Readings (for next meeting)
1. Mon 7 aug	<u>Introduction to participants.</u> <u>Course overview:</u> artifacts (language/objects/acts) & meanings (values, beliefs, sentiments); symbolic relationships; observing/ interviewing/reading	Observing exercise (due 8.8).	SS: ch. 4, through p. 60; and Epilogue. Yanow 2000, ch. 4.
2. Tues 8 aug	<u>Observing</u> (10-12 noon): Discuss exercise. Categories. Boundaries. "Dirt." Places & objects; people & acts. Nonverbal communication.	(8-)9-10: Lab (typing, printing) Writing exercise (due 9.8).	YSS: chs. 1, 2, (3), 20. Yanow: 2000, chs. 1,2. SS: ch. 1. Geertz: ch. 1. (Also: Hawkesworth, chs. 1-4; Polkinghorne; Taylor ch. in Rabinow & Sullivan)
3. Wed 9 aug	<u>Philosophical-historical background</u> (lecture, 9-11). <u>Participating:</u> Bodies & experience. Space/nonverbal exercise (11-12).	Participating exercise (due 10.8).	YSS: chs. 6, 7. SS: pp. 67-71 middle; and ch. 6.
4. Thurs 10 aug	<u>Interviewing 'theory'</u> (lecture, 9-11). Interviewing exercise (11-12).	Interviewing exercise (due 11.8).	SS: pp. 71-93.
5. Fri 11 aug	Discussion of interviewing exercise (10-12). Framing questions; follow-ups.	(8-)9-10: Lab (typing, printing) Document exercise I (due 14.8).	YSS: chs. 9, 10. SS: chs. 2, 3.

6. Mon 14 aug	<u>Documents: Reading language and graphics</u> (discuss exercise). Collecting, describing, interpreting. Metaphors in political discourses. Visual materials.	Bring camera cables!!! Document exercise II (write up #1; due 15.08) Possible guest.	YSS: ch. 13. Yanow 2000, ch. 5.
7. Tues 15 aug	<u>Topics & issues in research design</u> (10-12): Prior knowledge (self; settings, people, events, ...) DDT; duration. Selecting: people (interviewing), places (for observing and interv.), documents (sources, kinds).	(8-)9-10: Lab (typing, printing) Prepare final paper (due 17.08)	YSS: chs. 4, 5; 11, 14. Yanow 2000, ch. 6. Golden-Biddle and Locke 1993 (pdf file). SS: chs. 7, 8; pp. 21-22, Epilogue.
8. Wed 16 aug	<u>Reflexivity & trustworthiness:</u> Rephrasing/reframing rigor, objectivity, reliability, validity; Or, Reading like a reviewer.... Protecting human subjects.		YSS: Part IV introduction, chs. 21, 22. Kunda, Appendix.
9. Thurs 17 aug	<u>Interpreting interpretations</u> Interpretive science: systematic and testable.	Reminder: Bring 2 copies of final paper to class!	
10. Fir 18 aug	Presentations of papers Final exam		

Additional readings (* will be used in class)

Theoretical-Methodological:

*Geertz, Clifford, *The interpretation of cultures*. NY: Basic Books, 1973. Esp. ch. 1.

Hawkesworth, M. E., *Theoretical issues in policy analysis*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1988 (first half of the book).

Polkinghorne, Donald, *Methodology for the human sciences*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1983.

Rabinow, Paul and Sullivan, William M., eds., *Interpretive social science*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979.

Murphy, Jerome T., *Getting the facts*. Santa Monica: Goodyear, 1980. (out of print, but excellent for a short book)

For case examples of interpretive research, see:

Hawkesworth, M. E., *Theoretical issues in policy analysis*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1988 (case studies in 2nd half of the book).

Kondo, Dorinne K., *Crafting selves: Power, gender, and discourses of identity in a Japanese workplace*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

*Kunda, Gideon, *Engineering culture*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1992, Appendix.

Orr, Julian, *Talking about machines: An ethnography of a modern job*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996.

Singerman, Diane, *Avenues of Participation: Family, Politics, and Networks in Urban Quarters of Cairo*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Yanow, Dvora, *How does a policy mean? Interpreting policy and organizational actions*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1996.

Yanow, Dvora, *Constructing American "race" and "ethnicity": Category-making in public policy and administration*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2003.

Observing exercise I (due class #2, 8.8)

Solo or with one (only!) partner: choose a location in the bridge area near the river in the center of town, towards/in/near Old Town where you can observe for 1/2 hour.

Take notes on your observations.

Write and type up these notes (max. 3 pages, double spaced!, 12 point; one paper per person).

Be prepared to discuss them and hand them in on Tuesday.

(Note: The computer lab should be open by 8 a.m. We will start class Tuesday at 10.)

Writing exercise (due 9.8)

Choose a partner (other than the one you observed with, if you did that with a partner).

Exchange papers.

Read each other's paper; critique it (too vague? judgmental?). Talk about your critiques.

Participating exercise (due 10.8)

Return to the same setting where you did the initial observation exercise.

This time, find some way to participate in the events going on. Remember that you are present ALSO in the role of researcher.

Take notes afterwards on your observations. What, if anything, was different this time? Write and type up these notes. Be prepared to discuss them and hand them in on 10.8.

Interviewing exercise (due 11.8)

Return to the same setting once more.

This time, choose someone to talk to (“interview”) for 10 minutes (minimum) on the topic: this person’s relationship to Ljubljana.

DO NOT TAKE NOTES WHILE YOU TALK; DO NOT TAPE THE INTERVIEW!

Repeat this once or twice with other people, for a maximum of 30 minutes total time.

Write up your notes for each interview after you finish it. Type up your notes for all of them in a single paper, to hand in on 11.08.

Document exercise I (due Monday, 14.08)

Locate at least 3 different sources of material prepared for tourists to Ljubljana. Analyze these for their similarities and differences. What meaning do you find in these texts? What narratives? Story lines? Metaphors? Compare written texts and visual images. Compare print materials with observational data. Bring to class Monday. (Note: You may also use online materials.)

Document exercise II (due 15.08)

Write up document analysis.

Final papers (due 17.08)

Compile all short papers into a single analysis. Possible themes: 1) Ljubljana through a tourist’s eyes; 2) Assignment for the Minister of Tourism (invent your own job-related assignment); 3) How does Ljubljana mean? 4) An ethnography of Ljubljana. Bring 2 copies to class. (Note: For those wishing course credit, this final paper will constitute the final exam.)