

New Qualitative Methods
16:920:570
Fall 2022
Dr. Leslie Kay Jones (lk.jones@rutgers.edu)

Course Description

This course will introduce students to novel qualitative strategies like virtual and digital ethnography, software assisted content analysis, and digitally mediated interviews. Students will also become acquainted with novel qualitative data sources, including grassroots data reclamation projects that amass government data for researchers. Students will engage with the intellectual genealogies of new qualitative methods as models for conceptualizing novel approaches to data collection and use. Students will have the opportunity to integrate their own research into the final assignment by drawing on a methodological, analytical, or data-based intervention modeled in the course (or other novel intervention). The course will consider the ethical dimensions of long-standing and novel methods.

Required Texts

Boellstorff, Tom, Bonnie Nardi, Celia Pearce, and Tina L. Taylor. *Ethnography and virtual worlds*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

Browne, Simone. *Dark matters: On the surveillance of blackness*. Duke University Press, 2015.

Du Bois, W. E. B. *Darkwater: The givens collection*. Simon and Schuster, 2010.

Ann, Fujii Lee. *Interviewing in social science research: A relational approach*. Routledge, 2017.

Glaser, Barney G., and Anselm L. Strauss. *The discovery of grounded theory: Strategies for qualitative research*. Routledge, 2017. **Note: Only digital versions of this text available. Free from Rutgers Library. Kindle version available on Amazon.**

Nayak, Surya. *Race, gender and the activism of black feminist theory: Working with Audre Lorde*. Routledge, 2014.

Zuberi, Tukufu, and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, eds. *White logic, white methods: Racism and methodology*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.

See *Notes for Me section at the bottom

Learning goals

Be familiar with sociological strategies for methodologically approaching novel data.

Edit a manuscript for a methodology-based publication.

Identify strengths and weaknesses in qualitative methodologies.

Develop a reflexive practice for interrogating methodological ethics. ã

Grading

- 1 Data Memo - 20%
- 1 Week Leading Discussion - 15%
- 1 Final Methods Paper - 35%
- 1 Theorization of Methods Presentation - 30%

Agenda

Each section below includes one or more anchor texts, sometimes books, and sometimes articles. To supplement the anchor texts, I may add other short pieces ranging from relevant long-form news investigations and policy reports to digital art exhibitions that invite participants to interact with exhibit objects in unanticipated ways. Students may be asked to read a paper specific to their colleagues' research in order to offer substantive peer feedback. The anchor texts are spread out accordingly. Where the reading is shorter, I expect students to read closely for a deep dive into the texts.

Key Questions:

(We will add to these as the semester progresses)

What, exactly, is a method?

How does theory inform the construction and execution of sociological methods?

What are the ethical critiques of particular qualitative research methods?

How do stories about the social world push our intellectual boundaries?

How do methods socially construct "facts"?

September 7th **Introduction: Why "New" Methods?**

September 12th **Content Analysis**

Glaser, Barney G., and Anselm L. Strauss. *The discovery of grounded theory: Strategies for qualitative research*. Routledge, 2017. **Note: Only digital versions of this text available. Free from Rutgers Library. Kindle version available on Amazon.**

Nayak, Surya. *Race, gender and the activism of black feminist theory: Working with Audre Lorde*. Routledge, 2014.

September 19th **Interviewing: Up-to-Date Techniques**

Ann, Fujii Lee. *Interviewing in social science research: A relational approach*. Routledge, 2017.

Vasquez-Tokos, Jessica. "“If I Can Offer You Some Advice”: Rapport and Data Collection in Interviews Between Adults of Different Ages." *Symbolic interaction* 40, no. 4 (2017): 463-482.

September 26th **Ethnographies of the Intangible**

Boellstorff, Tom, Bonnie Nardi, Celia Pearce, and Tina L. Taylor. *Ethnography and virtual worlds*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

Paulsen, Krista E. "Ethnography of the ephemeral: studying temporary scenes through individual and collective approaches." *Social Identities* 15, no. 4 (2009): 509-524.

October 3rd **Archival and Historical Comparative Methods**

Browne, Simone. "Everybody's got a little light under the sun: Black luminosity and the visual culture of surveillance." *Cultural Studies* 26, no. 4 (2012): 542-564.

October 10th **Process Tracing**

Beach, Derek. "Achieving methodological alignment when combining QCA and process tracing in practice." *Sociological Methods & Research* 47, no. 1 (2018): 64-99.

Blatter, J, and T Blume. 2008. "Co-Variation and Causal Process Tracing Revisited: Clarifying New Directions for Causal Inference and Generalization in Case Study Methodology."

Blatter, Joachim, and Till Blume. 2008. "In Search of Co-Variance, Causal Mechanisms or Congruence? Towards a Plural Understanding of Case Studies." *Swiss Political Science Review* 14 (2): 315–56. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1662-6370.2008.tb00105.x>.

Qualitative Methods, 29–34. <http://www.unilu.ch/files/blatter-and-blume-apsa-newsletter-case-study-methodology.pdf>.

Collier, David. "Understanding process tracing." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44, no. 4 (2011): 823-830.

Fairfield, Tasha. "Going where the money is: Strategies for taxing economic elites in unequal democracies." *World Development* 47 (2013): 42-57.

Kim, Jae Yeon. "Racism is not enough: Minority coalition building in San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver." *Studies in American Political Development* 34, no. 2 (2020): 195-215.

October 17th **Speculative Fiction**

Benjamin, R. (2016). *Racial fictions, biological facts: Expanding the sociological imagination through speculative methods*. *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*.

Du Bois, W. E. B. *Darkwater: The givens collection*. Simon and Schuster, 2010.

October 24th

Theorization and Methodological Logics

(Revisiting) Glaser, Barney G., and Anselm L. Strauss. *The discovery of grounded theory: Strategies for qualitative research*. Routledge, 2017. **Note: Only digital versions of this text available. Free from Rutgers Library. Kindle version available on Amazon.**

Zuberi, Tukufu, and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, eds. *White logic, white methods: Racism and methodology*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.

October 31st

“Big” Data and Computer Assisted Data Collection

Bender, Emily M., Timnit Gebru, Angelina McMillan-Major, and Shmargaret Shmitchell. "On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots: Can Language Models Be Too Big? 🦜." In *Proceedings of the 2021 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*, pp. 610-623. 2021.

Blodgett, Su Lin, Solon Barocas, Hal Daumé III, and Hanna Wallach. "Language (technology) is power: A critical survey of "bias" in nlp." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.14050* (2020).

Hariri, Reihaneh H., Erik M. Fredericks, and Kate M. Bowers. "Uncertainty in big data analytics: survey, opportunities, and challenges." *Journal of Big Data* 6, no. 1 (2019): 1-16.

Tam, Siu-Ming, and Jae-Kwang Kim. "Big Data ethics and selection-bias: An official statistician's perspective." *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* 34, no. 4 (2018): 577-588.

November 7th

Virtually Situated Ethnography

Boellstorff, Tom, Bonnie Nardi, Celia Pearce, and Tina L. Taylor. *Ethnography and virtual worlds*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

Hine, C. (2020). *Ethnography for the internet: Embedded, embodied and everyday*. Routledge. Chapters 2 and 3.

November 14th

Digital and Virtually Situated Interviewing

Boellstorff, Tom, Bonnie Nardi, Celia Pearce, and Tina L. Taylor. *Ethnography and virtual worlds*. Princeton University Press, 2012. Chapter 6.

November 21st

Dark patterns

Browne, Simone. *Dark matters: On the surveillance of blackness*. Duke University Press, 2015.

November 28th

Public and Reclaimed Data

Glasser-Levine, Benjamin Samuel. "Illuminating Collaboration between Community Land Trust and Land Bank through Public Participation GIS." PhD diss., State University of New York at Binghamton, 2021.

Roy, Ananya, Raquel Rolnik, Rania Dalloul, Tina Grandinetti, Eliot Hetterly, Hayk Makhmuryan, Kimberly Miranda et al. "Methodologies for housing justice resource guide." (2020).

December 5th

Problem-Solving Methodological Quandaries/ Presentations

December 12th

Presentations

Classes end December 14th

Reading Days - December 15th

Notes from Me*

Accessibility

If you have any specific personal and/or academic accessibility requirements (learning disability, physical disability, language comprehension, etc.), I welcome you to speak with me or email me to let me know how to best accommodate your needs, especially if you don't have an apparent disability, have ongoing health issues or are trying to pass. You are NOT obligated to disclose any of these issues with me, only specify if there's any accommodations required. It is my pleasure to ensure that as my class meets the needs of all my students. If you need any adaptations for course materials (large font, pacing, image description, closed captioning) let me know. You are also encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Support Services, but it is not a requirement.

Rutgers Diversity Statement

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.