



Course Code & Title	LISS340 Performativity as/of Method		
Convenor(s)	Professor Engin Isin , International Politics, Queen Mary University of London		
Institution	QMUL	Department	LISS DTP
Academic Year	2021-2022	Term	Spring
Number of Sessions	1	Length of Session(s)	3 hours
	Date	Time	Location
	Monday, 14 th March 2022	09:00 - 12:00 (GMT)	Online
Enrolment Link:	Click here to enrol on this online course – you may be prompted to log in to SkillsForge		

Course Description:

This workshop is a critical exploration of how methods function in social and political inquiry. It will be organized as a 3-hour seminar. The first half of the seminar will focus on theories of performativity and speech acts since J.L. Austin. We will also discuss their influence on social science ontology, epistemology, and methodology. The second part will focus on examples of how scholars used performativity in various fields of social science. We will especially examine studies on citizenship, state, development, data, and security that exemplify performativity as/of methods.

Pre course preparation:

It is essential that you read the following eight articles for preparation. The articles for the first part for understanding performativity as a concept. The articles in the second part understanding examples of its usage in interdisciplinary social science fields. There are also eight recommended books. If you make yourself familiar with them especially with Austin (1962) you will get more out of the course.

1. For part 1: Please read (Beaney, 2012) on ordinary language philosophy or linguistic phenomenology, (Davis, 2008) on performance studies and performativity, (Allen, 1998) on Judith Butler and critical theory.
2. For part 2: Please read (Isin, 2017) on citizenship, (Müller, 2020) on state, (Dunn, 2010) on development, (Ruppert and Scheel, 2019) on data, and (Huysmans, 2011) on security.

Please check out LISS DTP Training Resources webpage for downloadable PDFs- <https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/training-resources/>



Recommended readings

The literature on the origins and development of performativity as/of method is quite large. And even larger is the literature in social sciences and humanities that explicitly adopt a performativity perspective on doing research. The readings I recommend here are key for its origins and development. It is important to read Austin (1962; 1970) are of course essential. So are the debate between John Searle (Searle, 1970) and Jacques Derrida (1988). James Loxley (2007) and Raoul Moati (2014) provide good accounts. The role of Judith Butler (1997; 2015) in both providing a performative interpretation of gender and of assembly is significant.

Required readings

- Allen A (1998) Power Trouble: Performativity as Critical Theory. *Constellations* 5(4): 456-471.
- Beaney M (2012) Ordinary Language Philosophy. In: Fara DG and Russell G (eds) *The routledge companion to philosophy of language*. London: Routledge, pp.873-884.
- Davis TC (2008) Introduction: the pirouette, detour, revolution, deflection, deviation, tack, and yaw of the performative turn. In: Davis TC (ed) *The Cambridge Companion to Performance Studies*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, pp.1-8.
- Dunn KC (2010) There is No Such Thing as the State: Discourse, Effect and Performativity. *Forum for Development Studies* 37(1): 79-92.
- Huysmans J (2011) What's in an act? On security speech acts and little security nothings. *Security Dialogue* 42(4-5): 371-383.
- Isin EF (2017) Performative Citizenship. In: Shachar A, Bauböck R, Bloemraad I, et al. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.500-523.
- Müller TR (2020) Unhappy Performatives of Statehood: Staging Incompatible Narratives of Eritrea through Academic Conferences. *TDR/The Drama Review* 64(1): 107-118.
- Ruppert E and Scheel S (2019) The Politics of Method: Taming the New, Making Data Official. *International Political Sociology* 13(3): 233-252.

Recommended readings

- Austin JL (1962) *How to do things with words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Austin JL (1970) *Philosophical papers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Butler J (1997) *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*. London: Routledge.
- Butler J (2015) *Notes toward a performative theory of assembly*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Derrida J (1988) *Limited Inc*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.
- Loxley J (2007) *Performativity*. London: Routledge.
- Moati R (2014) *Derrida/Searle: deconstruction and ordinary language*. NewYork: Columbia University Press.
- Searle JR (1970) *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Number of students: 20