London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership
Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

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	2022-2023	**Term**	Spring
Number of Sessions	1	**Length of Session(s)**	3 hours
Date		**Time**	**Location**
Thursday 9 March 2023		09:00 - 12:00 (GMT)	In person, TBC
Enrolment Link:	Available to book on SkillsForge from **Monday 12th December 2022**. Click to log in and register: https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#he/dev/eventDetails,;em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=340,; Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)		

Course Description:

This workshop is a critical exploration of how the concept of performativity is used as a method in social sciences (performativity *as* method) and how the concept affects the idea of 'method' in social sciences (performativity *of* method). It is organized as a 3-hour seminar. The first half of the seminar focuses on theories of performativity since an ordinary language philosopher J.L. Austin articulated the concept in 1962. We then discuss how the concept changed the way method is understood in social sciences. The second part illustrates both (as/of) aspects of performativity in social sciences. We examine studies on citizenship, state, development, data, and security that illustrate performativity as/of methods.

Pre course preparation:

It is important 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 social sciences. 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, (Barad, 2008) on performativity and representation, (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.
Barad, K. 2008. "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 28 (3): 801-831.
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.
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