



# London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

## Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

<b>Course Code &amp; Title</b>	LISS376 Finding Hidden Patterns in your Data: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Data Visualisation				
<b>Convenor(s)</b>	Josh Walmsley, Liam McVay				
<b>Institution</b>	KCL	<b>Department</b>		War Studies	
<b>Academic Year</b>	2022-23	<b>Term</b>		Summer	
<b>Number of sessions</b>	5	<b>Research Platform</b>	Please choose one of the following: • Digital & Archival Research Methods (DAR)	<b>Length of Session(s)</b>	2 hours
<b>Day, Date</b>		<b>Start : End</b>		<b>Room Location</b>	
Tuesday, 02/05/23 Tuesday, 09/05/23 Tuesday, 16/05/23 Tuesday, 23/05/23 Tuesday, 30/05/23		1400 : 1600		Via Zoom	
<b>Enrolment Links:</b>	Available to book on SkillsForge from <b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b> . Click to log in and register: <a href="https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails;;em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=376;">https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails;;em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=376;</a> Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: <a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/liss-dtp/faq">Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)</a>				

### Course Description:

The course will introduce students across the social sciences to practices of data visualisation by engaging alternative methodological and theoretical perspectives. Featuring a hands-on approach to a selection of data visualisation techniques, the course will allow students to explore the potential – and limits – of data visualisation for producing knowledge in the social sciences and humanities. The first two sessions chart the rise and transformation of data visualisation into the digital age, exploring promise it offers to academic research while also grappling with core lines of critique. With this groundwork laid, in sessions three and four we turn to “doing data viz,” putting the ideas we develop as a group into practice by exploring research methods that are both qualitative **and** quantitative, including an introduction to powerful data processing software (R studio, SPAD, Gephi). The final session is organised around individual consultations, in which participants will receive personalised guidance on how they might use data visualisation in their own projects.

Overall, participants will acquire an appreciation of the power of “quali-quantitative” methods and its potential application in their research, the epistemological and political stakes of data visualisation in the social sciences, as well as a practical understanding of different techniques and technologies of “data viz”.

This course is open to all LISS DTP students but is perhaps particularly beneficial for early-stage PhDs who are exploring different methodological approaches to use in their research. As such, there is no requirement for students to arrive with pre-collected data – although those who do may be able to use theirs during the course. Students who have so far worked primarily with qualitative methods are especially welcome.

#### 1. Introduction to Data Visualisation: Tuesday, 02/05/23 | 1400 – 1600 | Via Zoom

- *Friendly, M., (2008). “A brief history of data visualization”. In Handbook of Data Visualization (pp. 15-56). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.*



- 2. The politics of “Data Viz”: feminist and postcolonial perspectives: Tuesday, 09/05/23 | 1400 – 1600 | Via Zoom**
  - D’Ignazio C., and Klein, Lauren F. (2020) *“Data Feminism”*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
  - Russert, B., and Battle-Baptiste, W. (2018) *“W.E.B Du Bois’s Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America”*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York.
  
- 3. Introduction to Gephi and Visual Network Analysis: Tuesday, 16/05/23 | 1400 – 1600 | Via Zoom**
  - Grandjean, M. (2015) *“Gephi: Introduction to network analysis and visualisation.”*
  - Venturini, T. (2012) *“Building on faults: how to represent controversies with digital methods.” Public understanding of science 21, no. 7: 796-812.*
  
- 4. Introduction to RStudio/SPAD and Geometric Data Analysis: Tuesday, 23/05/23 | 1400 – 1600 | Via Zoom**
  - Lebaron, F. (2009) *“How Bourdieu “quantified” Bourdieu: The geometric modelling of data.” In Quantifying Theory: Pierre Bourdieu, pp. 11-29. Springer, Dordrecht.*
  - Yates, S., and Lockley, E. (2009) *“Social media and social class.” American Behavioural Scientist 62, no. 9. 1291-1316.*
  
- 5. Group Workshop/ Consultations: Tuesday, 30/05/23 | 1400 – 1600 | Via Zoom**

**Reading List:**

- Friendly, M., (2008). *“A brief history of data visualization”*. In *Handbook of Data Visualization* (pp. 15-56). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
- Venturini, T. (2012) *“Building on faults: how to represent controversies with digital methods.” Public understanding of science 21, no. 7: 796-812.*

**Eligibility:**

*All PhD students*

**Pre-course preparation:**

**Number of students:**

*5 - 20*