



# London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

## Core Research Methods in the Social Sciences

<b>Course Code &amp; Title:</b>	<b>LISS001 Research Design &amp; Project Evaluation</b>		
<b>Convenor(s):</b>	Various; LISS DTP Staff <a href="mailto:liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk">liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk</a>		
<b>Institution:</b>	King's College London	<b>Department:</b>	LISS DTP
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2023-24	<b>Term:</b>	Autumn
<b>Number of Sessions:</b>	2 (3 for King's students)	<b>Length of Session(s):</b>	1 hour lecture + 2 hour workshop (everyone) + 2 hour seminar (King's students only)
<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Room location:</b>	
<p><b>Lecture:</b>            Tuesday 10th October 2023            Friday 6th October</p> <p><b>Research Area Workshop:</b>  <i>(All students attend on 10<sup>th</sup> October unless you have an alternative session date listed below)</i>            Tuesday 10th October 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Security and Governance  <b>Pathways 10, 11, 12 &amp; 13 ONLY</b>            Friday 6th October 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Economics &amp; Business  <b>Pathways 4 &amp; 5 ONLY</b>            Friday Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 2023</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>+ LISS001B Research Ethics and Your Doctoral Project</b>  <b>King's students ONLY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><del>11:00 – 12:00</del>            12:00 – 13:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13:00 – 15:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13:00 – 15:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00-12:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15:00-17:00</p>	<p>Online via Zoom or MS Teams</p> <p>Online via Zoom or MS Teams</p> <p>Online via Zoom or MS Teams</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Online via Zoom or MS Teams</p>	
<b>Enrolment Link:</b>	Available to book on SkillsForge from <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 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=001;">https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails;em.providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=001;</a> Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: <a href="https://liss-dtp.ac.uk">Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)</a>		



## London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership Core Research Methods in the Social Sciences

**Course Description:** This course is part of LISS DTP's five-part core training in social sciences, Methods in the Social Sciences programme, which is delivered across the LISS DTP partnership institutions and is open to all doctoral students working in social science disciplines. It is designed for first year doctoral students in the social sciences to improve your understanding of research design and to support you in applying the associated knowledge and skills to the development of your PhD and beyond. The course involves one lecture, followed by workshops delivered at Research Area (groups of related LISS DTP Pathways) level. These sessions will:

- Enhance your understanding of the general principles of research design, your ability to identify answerable research questions and your capacity to evaluate the research design of others
- Develop your understanding of major concepts in your own research to assist in thinking through their contested meanings and underlying normative aspects

**PLEASE NOTE:** In addition to attending these sessions, students are strongly encouraged to also attend training on **research ethics procedures, open access publishing and data storage, protection and copyright** within their own institution (as this training needs to be delivered in an institutionally specific way). Such sessions will:

- Support you in securing the necessary research ethics and risk assessment approvals to conduct your PhD research and in conducting ethical research and presentation of your findings (also applicable to those who do not require ethical approval for their projects)
- Outline your rights and responsibilities with regards to data storage, protection and copyright and open access publishing

***If you are a LISS DTP-funded student, undertaking this additional training is mandatory.***

If you cannot attend this session, King's Library Services offers training sessions throughout the academic year, bookable on Skills Forge, for example: LIB842 Managing your research data, LIB841 Essentials of copyright: what researchers and academic staff should know.

More information on Open Access publishing and King's policy on this can be found here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/researchsupport/openaccess/index.aspx> Email: [openaccess@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@kcl.ac.uk)

King's Research Ethics team offers significant online advice

(<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/research/support/ethics/index.aspx>) and can be contacted directly through links from this webpage.

**Queen Mary students:** Queen Mary students can find more information on research data management, open access publishing and research ethics on the following pages: <http://www.library.qmul.ac.uk/research/> & <https://capd.qmul.ac.uk/what-we-offer/researcher-development/postgraduate-research-students/>

**Imperial students:** Imperial students can book onto the College's Ensuring Integrity training programme to cover these topics. Training dates and booking information can be accessed here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/professional-skills/doctoral/shortcourses/integrity/>

### Course Outline:



# London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

## Core Research Methods in the Social Sciences

**Dr Nicola Palmer, Reader, The Dickson Poon School of Law**

**LECTURE:** Research design in the social sciences

This session will introduce and consider the challenges related to 'research design' in the social sciences. In particular, it will focus upon developing strong research questions, preparing effective research designs, learning /training research methodologies, conducting fieldwork, and organising and reporting research findings. The session will emphasise qualitative methodologies, and examples will often drawn from participatory-observation-based research.

### Supplementary Reading

Locke, L. et al. 2000. *Proposals that work, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, A guide for planning dissertations and grant proposals*. Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications: pp. 3-24 & 41-61.

Flick, U. 2002. *An Introduction to Qualitative Research (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*. London, Sage Publications: pp. 39-72.

If you are interested in the processes that monitor the PhD then consult the following documents:

Quality Assurance Agency: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Doctorate-guide.pdf>

King's College London regulations for PhDs: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/governancezone/Research/Regulations-A4-Regulations-for-Research-Degrees-2016-17.aspx>

Queen Mary regulations for PhDs: <http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/research-degrees/research-degree-students/>

Imperial regulations for PhDs: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/>

### RESEARCH AREA WORKSHOPS: Research design in your area of study

**Date and time:** Tuesday 10th October 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 (or alternative date as specified for your research area in the table at the top of this outline). Meeting links will be circulated via e-mail.

### Various Pathway Leads from each Research Area will be running these workshops

In these small break-out groups, students will have a chance for exercises and small group discussion to help identify more specifically what constitutes a good research question within their more specialised area of study.

	Pathways	Abbreviations	Research Areas
1	Health Practices, Innovation & Implementation	HPII	Health, Wellbeing & Social Inclusion
2	Life Course, Psychology & Health	LCPH	
3	Health, Biopolitics & Social Inequality	HBSI	
4	Economics, Finance & the World Economy	EFWE	Economics & Business
5	Work, Organisations & Business Management	WOBM	
6	Education, Mind & Society	EMS	Language, Culture & Education
7	Linguistics, Media & Culture	LMC	



8	Urbanisation, Social Change & Transformation	USCT	The Environment & Urban Life
9	Political Ecology, Energy & Environmental Health	PEEEH	
10	International Development & Human Security	IDHS	Security & Governance
11	Global Order, Violence & Security Practice	GOVS	
12	Strategic, Regional & Security Studies	SRSS	
13	Politics, Public Policy & Governance	PPPG	

### Supplementary Reading List:

- Guide to creative Commons for Humanities and Social Science monograph authors <http://open-uk.jiscebooks.org/ccguide/>
- [Being Open as an Early Career Research \(presentation by Erin McKiernan\)](#) McKiernan, E. (2014). Paper presented at the SPARC 2014 Open Access Meeting, 3-4 March 2014, Kansas City, MO. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.954994>. Presentation made by a young scholar about why she is an advocate for Open Access to research and encouraging others to consider OA over current models of scholarly publishing.
- [MANTRA](#) is a free online course designed for researchers or others who manage digital data as part of a research project. <http://datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra/>
- ESRC 2010, *Framework for Research Ethics*. Swindon, Economic and Social Research Council.
- Mauthner, M. L., 2002, *Ethics in Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications.
- Stanley, L. and Wise, S., 2010, The ESRC's 2010 Framework for Research Ethics: Fit for Research Purpose? *Sociological Research Online* 15 (4): 12.
- Cameron, D., E. Frazer, P. Harvey, B. Rampton & K. Richardson 1992 *Researching Language: Issues of Power & Method*. London: Routledge
- Cameron, D., E. Frazer, P. Harvey, B. Rampton & K. Richardson 1993. Ethics, advocacy & empowerment: Issues of method in researching language. *Language & Communication*. 13/2:81-94
- Dyer, S, and D. Demeritt 2009. Un-ethical review? Why it is wrong to apply the medical model of research governance to human geography. *Progress in Human Geography*. 33/1@46-64
- Hammersley, M. 2010. Creeping ethical regulation & the strangling of research. *Sociological Research Online*. 15 (4) 17
- Reason, P. & H. Bradbury 2001/6. *Handbook of Action Research*. London: Sage.
- Atkinson, P., 1990, *The Ethnographic Imagination: Textual Constructions of Reality*, London: Routledge
- Back, L., 2007, *The Art of Listening*, Oxford: Berg Press
- Bauer, M. & Gaskell, G., 2000, *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound: a Practical Handbook*, London: Sage Publications
- Blaikie, N., 2007, *Approaches to Social Enquiry*, Cambridge: Polity Press
- Blaikie, N., 2009, *Designing Social Research: the Logic of Anticipation*, Cambridge: Polity Press
- Bryman, A., 2008, *Social research methods*, Oxford, Oxford University Press



- Chalmers, A., 1982, *What is this Thing Called Science: an Assessment of the Nature and Status of Science and its Methods*, Milton Keynes: Open University Press
- Charmaz, K., 2006, *Constructing Grounded Theory*, London: Sage Publications.
- Clarke, A. E., 2003, Situational Analyses: Grounded Theory Mapping After the Postmodern Turn, *Symbolic Interaction* 26 (4): 553-576
- Corbin, J. M. & Strauss, A., 2008, *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*, London: Sage Publications
- Creswell, J. W., 2007, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*, London: Sage Publications
- Creswell, J. W., 2009, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, London: Sage Publications
- Creswell, J. W. & Plano Clark, V., 2007, *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research*, London: Sage Publications
- Crotty, M., 1998, *The Foundations of Social Research: Meaning and Perspective in the Research Process*, London: Sage Publications
- Delanty, G., 1997, *Social Science: Beyond Constructivism and Realism*, Milton Keynes: Open University Press
- Delanty, G & Strydom, P., 2003, *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic and Contemporary Readings*, Milton Keynes: Open University Press
- Denzin, N. K., 2009, *The Research Act: a Theoretical Introduction to Sociological Methods*, New Brunswick, NJ: Aldine Transaction
- Denzin, N. K. & Lincoln, Y. S., 2005, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications
- Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S. et al., 2008, *Handbook of Critical and Indigenous Methodologies*, London: Sage Publications
- Dunleavy, P., 2003, *Authoring a PhD: How to Plan, Draft, Write, and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan
- Emerson, R. M., Fretz, R. I. et al., 1995, *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press
- Hacking, I., 1983, *Representing and Intervening: Introductory Topics in the Philosophy of Natural Science*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Haraway, D. J., 1991, *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*, New York: Routledge
- Harding, S. G., 1987, *Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press
- Harding, S. G. & Hintikka M., 2003, *Discovering Reality: Feminist Perspectives on Epistemology, Metaphysics, Methodology, And Philosophy of Science*, Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers
- King, G., Keohane, R. O. et al., 1994, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Marsh, D. & Stoker, G., 2010, *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, Basingstoke, New York: Macmillan
- Mauthner, M. L., 2002, *Ethics in Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications
- Papineau, D., 1995, Methodology, in *Philosophy: A Guide through the Subject*, Grayling, A. C., Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 677



- Phelps, R., Fisher, K. et al., 2007, *Organizing and Managing Your Research: A Practical Guide for Postgraduates*, London: Sage Publications
- Punch, K., 2005, *Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative And Qualitative Approaches*, London: Sage Publications
- Richardson, J. T. E., 1996, *Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods for Psychology and the Social Sciences*, Leicester: British Psychological Society
- Rose, G., 2007, *Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials*, London: Sage Publications
- Silverman, D., 2006, *Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analyzing Talk, Text, and Interaction*, London: Sage Publications
- Silverman, D., 2010, *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*, London: Sage Publications
- Smith, M. J., 1998, *Social Science in Question*, London: Sage Publications
- Strauss, A. L. & Corbin, J., 1998, *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*, London: Sage Publications
- Strathern M., 2000, *Audit cultures: Anthropological Studies in Accountability, Ethics and the Academy*, London: Routledge
- Strathern M., 2006, A community of critics? Thoughts on new knowledge, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 12: 191-209

## Useful resources

- **Sage research methods online:** A useful database of research methods that contains a reference library plus tools for constructing you own methods map.  
<http://srmo.sagepub.com/publicstart?authRejection=true>
- **Knowledge base for social research methods:** <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/>
- For light relief, **Piled higher and deeper** (PhD comics) <http://www.phdcomics.com/>