London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Core Research Methods in the Social Sciences

Course Code & Title:	**LISS002 Reviewing the Literature**		
Convenor(s):	Various; LISS DTP liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk		
Institution:	King's College London	**Department:**	LISS DTP
Academic Year:	2023-24	**Term:**	Autumn
Number of Sessions:	2	**Length of Session(s):**	1 hour lecture + 2 hour workshop (via Zoom)
Dates:		**Time:**	**Room location:**
Lecture: Link to the lecture recording will be emailed to you following registration			Recording
Research Area Workshops: Thursday 5th October 2023 (all students attend *unless* you have an alternative session date listed below)		14:00-16:00	Online via Zoom
Health, Well-being and Social Inclusion Pathways 1,2 & 3 ONLY Tuesday 3rd October		14:00-16:00	Online via Zoom
Economics and Business Pathways 4 & 5 ONLY Thursday 5th October 2023		13:00-15:00	
The Environment and Urban Life Pathways 8 & 9 ONLY Friday 13th October 2023		13:00-15:00	
Enrolment Link:	Available to book on SkillsForge from **Thursday 21st September 2023**. Click to log in and register: https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#he/dev/eventDetails,;em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=002,; Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)		

Course Description:

The course will advance your critical and evaluative skills in preparation for writing academic literature reviews required for your upgrade report and thesis. The course will be delivered through a lecture and workshop that form the base of further, recommended training in various referencing software and database/catalogue/online searching available through your specific institution. By the end of the course, you will:

- Understand the kind of literature review you will be expected to write for a doctorate in the social sciences and its purpose in contributing to the originality of your research

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to attending these sessions, students are strongly encouraged to also attend training on **referencing software and database/catalogue/online resource searching** within their own institution (as this training needs to be delivered in an institutionally specific way). Such sessions will:

- Be more able to obtain literature from a wide variety of academic databases and online sources, evaluate it effectively and show scholarly judgement over using it

- Improve your information management skills, and more specifically, the ins and outs of using the Endnote/RefWorks/LaTeX or another relevant referencing software of your choice

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

King's College London students: King's offers training on both Endnote and RefWorks for students and staff-https://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/subjectsupport/bibliographic-software.aspx Training courses covering literature searching in King's libraries and courses such as LIB261 Search Techniques for Systematic Reviews are bookable via Skills Forge. Library Services coordinates the King's Learning and Skills Service, which offers a wide variety of training courses- http://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/klass

Queen Mary students: Queen Mary students can find more information on bibliographic software training and help with finding research resources 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 has online referencing resources and runs training courses in both Endnote and RefWorks- https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/ It also runs Information Landscape training courses covering online resources, databases and general library search techniques- https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/professional-skills/doctoral/shortcourses/infomanagement/

Course Outline:

LECTURE: The literature review in academic research

This introductory lecture will discuss different kinds of academic literature review and consider what distinguishes it from policy-oriented literature review and commercial scoping exercises. The lecture will also reflect theoretically on the purpose of the literature review and its importance in contributing to the knowledgebase.

Supplementary reading
Hart, C., 1998, *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Imagination*. London: Sage Publications. **Chapter 1: The literature review in research; Chapter 2: Reviewing and the research imagination**

Silverman, D., 2010, *Doing Qualitative Research: a Comprehensive Guide for the Social Sciences*, London: Thousand Oaks. **Chapter 18: The literature review chapter**

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RESEARCH AREA WORKSHOPS: Reviewing the literature in your area of study

Workshop link: This will be e-mailed to you following registration on Skillsforge (offered via Zoom).

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 best practice for literature reviews 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	

Additional, useful readings:

- Dale, A., Wathan, J., Higgins, V., 2008, Secondary Analysis of Quantitative Data Sources, in Alasuutari, P., Bickman, L. and Brannen, J (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Social Research Methods*, London: Sage, pp. 520-535
- Dale, A., Fieldhouse, E A. and Holdsworth, C., 2000, *Analyzing Census Microdata* (1st Edition, London: Edward Arnold)
- Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S., 2005, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications
- Dunleavy, P., 2003, *Authoring a PhD: how to Plan, Draft, Write and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation*, New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan
- Egger, M., Davey Smith, G. and Altman, D. 2001. *Systematic Reviews in Health Care: Meta-analysis in context*. 2nd Edition. London: BMJ Publishing
- Fienberg, S. et al., 1985, *Sharing Research Data,* Washington DC: National Academy Press. http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=2033&page=1
- Gilbert, N. (ed), 2001, *Researching social life*, London: Sage
- Garrard, J., 2007, *Health Sciences Literature Review Made Easy: the Matrix Method*, London: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

- Hart, C., 2001, *Doing a Literature Search: a Comprehensive Guide for the Social Sciences*, London: Sage Publications
- Hart, C., 1998, *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Imagination*. London: Sage Publications
- Higgins, J.P.T. and Green, S. 2008. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions.* The Cochrane Collaboration, London: Wiley-Blackwell. www.cochrane-handbook.org
- Luker, K., 2008, *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-Glut*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
- Murray, R., 2006, *How to Write a Thesis*, Milton Keynes: Open University Press
- Ó Dochartaigh, N., 2007, *Internet Research Skills: How to do your Literature Search and Find Information Online*, London: Sage Publications
- Oxman, A., Bjørndal, A., Becerra-Posada, F., Gibson, M., Gonzalez Block, M. A., Haines, A. et al (2010). A framework for mandatory impact evaluation to ensure well-informed public decisions. *Lancet* , 375(9712), pp. 427–31
- Phelps, R., Fisher, K., 2007, *Organising and Managing your Research: a Practical Guide for Postgraduates*, London: Sage Publications
- Silverman, D., 2010, *Doing Qualitative Research: a Comprehensive Guide for the Social Sciences*, London: Sage Publications
- Smith, E., 2006, *Using Secondary Data in Educational and Social Research: Conducting Educational Research,* Milton Keynes: Open University Press
- Trzesniewski K.H., Donnellan M.B. and Lucas R.E., 2010, *Secondary Data Analysis: an Introduction for Psychologists*, Washington DC: American Psychologist Association
- Wright-Mills, C., 1959, *The Sociological Imagination*, Oxford: Oxford University Press