Researching Social Life 1

SOC2069

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Description automatically generated

Module leader: Dr Chris Moreh

Semester 1, 2022-2023

# Module outline

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Timetable week | Topic week | Week commencing | Topic | Assessment |
| 4 | 0 | 26/09/2022 | [Introduction](#_Introduction) |  |
| 5 | 1 | 03/10/2022 | [Taming information](#_Taming_information) |  |
| 6 | 2 | 10/10/2022 | Designing social research |  |
| 7 | 3 | 17/10/2022 | Designing research instruments |  |
| 8 | 4 | 24/10/2022 | Collecting primary data |  |
| 9 | 5 | 31/10/2022 | Analyzing and interpreting findings |  |
| 10 | 6- | 07/11/2022 | Reading/enrichment week |  |
| 11 | 7 | 14/11/2022 | Variables and descriptive statistics |  |
| 12 | 8 | 21/11/2022 | Modeling continuous outcomes: single predictors | Assignment 1:  12 noon, Monday, 21st November 2022 |
| 13 | 9 | 28/11/2022 | Modeling continuous outcomes: multiple predictors |  |
| 14 | 10 | 05/12/2022 | Modeling binary outcomes |  |
| 15 | 11 | 12/12/2022 | Presenting quantitative results |  |
| 20 | - | 16/01/2023 |  | Assignment 2:  12 noon, Monday, 16th January 2023 |

# Readings

There are many general textbooks you can use to get a basic overview of research methods for social scientists. A library catalogue search on “[social research methods](https://libsearch.ncl.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?query=any,contains,%22social%20research%20methods%22&tab=default_tab&search_scope=NotPC&vid=NEWUI&offset=0)” throws up 88 books, 63 with full text available online. These generic textbooks usually present various research methods, concepts and definitions in a prescriptive and (usually) dull manner. Three of the most popular ones are:

* Babbie, E.R. (2021) *The practice of social research*. 15th edition. Boston, MA: Cengage.
* Bryman, A. (2016) *Social research methods*. 5th edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
* Neuman, W.L. (2014) *Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches*. 7th edition. Harlow: Pearson.

You can always refer to one of these textbooks to read about a specific method, or if you want to search up a definition, you can look at:

* Jupp, V. (2006) [The SAGE dictionary of social research methods](https://libsearch.ncl.ac.uk/permalink/f/1jraif3/NCL_ALMA2157126570002411). London: SAGE.

Core readings:

1. Luker, K. (2008) *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-glut*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2. Gelman, A., Hill, J. and Vehtari, A. (2020) *Regression and other stories*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Secondary readings:

**Babbie, E.R.** 2021 *The practice of social research* Fifteenth edition., Boston, MA: Cengage.

**Brinkmann, S.** 2014 ‘Doing Without Data’, *Qualitative Inquiry* 20(6): p.720–725.

**Bryman, A.** 2016 *Social research methods* Fifth Edition., Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

**Byrne, D.S.** 2002 *Interpreting quantitative data*, London ; Thousand Oaks, Calif: SAGE.

**Emerson, R.M.**, **Fretz, R.I.** and **Shaw, L.L.** 2011 *Writing ethnographic fieldnotes* 2nd ed., Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

**Fairfield, T.** and **Charman, A.** 2022 *Social inquiry and Bayesian inference: rethinking qualitative research*, Cambridge, United Kingdom New York, NY, USA Port Melbourne, VIC, Australia New Delhi, India Singapore: Cambridge University Press.

**Gerson, K.** and **Damaske, S.** 2020 *The science and art of interviewing*, New York: Oxford University Press.

**Hacking, I.** 1999 *The social construction of what?*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

**Hermanowicz, J.C.** 2002 ‘The Great Interview: 25 Strategies for Studying People in Bed’, *Qualitative Sociology* 25(4): p.479–499.

**Kara, H.** 2015 *Creative research methods in the social sciences: a practical guide*, Bristol: Policy press.

**Lareau, A.** 2021 *Listening to people: a practical guide to interviewing, participant observation, data analysis, and writing it all up*, Chicago ; London: The University of Chicago Press.

**Neuman, W. Lawrence** and **Neuman, William Lawrence** 2014 *Social research methods: qualitative and quantitative approaches* 7. ed., Pearson new internat. ed., Harlow: Pearson.

**Ragin, C.C.** and **Amoroso, L.M.** 2011 *Constructing social research: the unity and diversity of method* 2nd ed., Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

Optional readings:

Set readings:

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| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Readings** |
| [Introduction](#_Introduction) |  |
| [Taming information](#_Taming_information) |  |
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| Reading/enrichment week |  |
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# Topics in detail

## Introduction

## [Taming information](#_Module_outline)

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| Lecture (recording) | IT lab |  |
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Readings: