

# Postgraduate Social Research Programs

Dr Chao-Yo Cheng

# Plan for today

- ▶ Program structure and requirements
- ▶ Learning resources and opportunities
- ▶ Postgraduate academic life
- ▶ Q&A

# Program structure and requirements

- ▶ Four 15-credit **research methods** modules (60 credits in total)
  - Qualitative Social Research Methods and Qualitative Research Design
  - Introduction to Quantitative Social Research, Applied Social Data Analysis in R and Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research
  - Experiments in Social Science
- ▶ Two 30-credit **theory/subject** options (60 credits in total)
  - MSc and PG Diploma: Investigating the Social World and Masterclass in Social Research
  - MRes: Two options from your subject area
- ▶ **Social Research Dissertation** (60 credits), including four dissertation workshops

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AUTUMN	<u>Introduction to Quantitative Social Research</u> SSPO239H7 <i>Laszlo Horvath</i> 15 credits 6PM - 9PM				<u>Qualitative Social Research Methods</u> SSPO242H7 <i>Laura Richards-Gray</i> 15 credits 6PM - 7:30PM
SPRING	<u>Applied Social Data Analysis in R</u> SSPO240H7 <i>Laszlo Horvath</i> 15 credits 6PM - 7:30PM		<u>Investigating the Social World</u> SSPO263S7 <i>Chao-Yo Cheng+</i> 30 credits 6PM - 9PM		<u>Qualitative Research Design</u> SSPO243H7 <i>Laura Richards-Gray</i> 15 credits 6PM - 7:30PM
SUMMER	<u>Advanced Topics in Quantitative Social Research</u> SSPO241H7 <i>Chao-Yo Cheng</i> 15 credits 6PM - 7:30PM			<u>Masterclass in Social Research</u> SSPO019S7 <i>Chao-Yo Cheng</i> 30 credits 6PM - 9PM	<u>Experiments in Social Science</u> SSPO245H7 <i>Barry Maydom</i> 15 credits 6PM – 7:30PM

## Compulsory and Core SR modules, 2024-2025

# Program structure and requirements

- ▶ We offer flexibility such that you can
  - Choose to finish your study full-time or part-time
  - Audit modules and/or take modules outside your subject area
  - Progress to MSc/MRes after you finish PG Certificate/Diploma
  - Exit with PG Cert/Diploma even if you start with MSc/MRes
- ▶ We will revisit your modules and/or your plan at/after Birkbeck in 1:1 meetings

	Methods (60 credits)	Theory/Subject (60 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits)
PG Certificate	V		
PG Diploma	V	V	
MSc and MRes	V	V	V



# Dissertation process: An overview

- ▶ Autumn (Term 1)
  - November: Workshop on how to get started
  - Preliminary meetings with me and/or potential supervisor
- ▶ Spring (Term 2)
  - January–February: Submit your proposal form (20 January) and supervisor allocation
  - March: Workshop on literature review and research ethics
- ▶ Summer (Term 3)
  - June: Dissertation Fairs through Masterclass in Social Research
  - July: Workshop on writing up your dissertation (optional)
- ▶ September: Submit dissertation (September 15) or request deferral (TBA)



The University of Chicago Press

Search Site



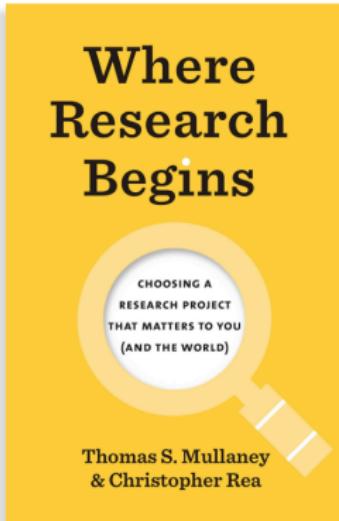
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# Where Research Begins

Choosing a Research Project That Matters to You (and the World)

Thomas S. Mullaney and Christopher Rea

Plenty of books tell you how to do research. This book helps you figure out WHAT to research in the first place, and why it matters.

The hardest part of research isn't answering a question. It's knowing what to do *before* you know what your question is. *Where Research Begins* tackles the two challenges every researcher faces with every new project: How do I find a compelling problem to investigate—one that truly matters to me, deeply and personally? How do I then design my research project so that the results will matter to anyone else?

This book will help you start your new research project the right way for you with a series of simple yet ingenious exercises. Written in a conversational style and packed with real-world examples, this easy-to-follow workbook offers an engaging guide to finding research inspiration within yourself, and in the broader world of ideas.



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# Studying at Birkbeck

- ▶ Each module has a handbook, with detailed description of contact points, aims and objectives, learning outcomes, syllabus, and assessment requirements
- ▶ Most modules will be taught by pre-recorded lectures combined with in-person seminars or lab tutorials (for quantitative modules)
- ▶ You will need to finish pre-sessional activities (e.g., readings and lecture recordings) before the live sessions and actively engage in class activities
- ▶ You will have the chance to provide feedback (student-staff exchanges and module evaluation)

## MASTERCLASS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH (2022\_23)



Course   Settings   Participants   Grades   Reports   More ▾

Overall progress % 1 ⚙



Welcome!



Your Studies



Assessment



"Pieces-of-the-Craft" Workshops



Week 1: Doing "Better" Social Research



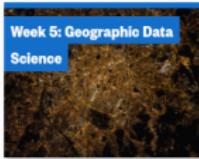
Week 2: Surveys



Week 3: Social Network Analysis



Week 4: Natural Language Processing



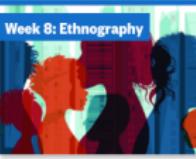
Week 5: Geographic Data Science



Week 6: Reading Week



Week 7: Mix Methods: Merits and Pitfalls



Week 8: Ethnography



Week 9: Discourse Analysis



Week 10: History and Archives: Data and Quantification



Week 11: History and Archives: Visual, Material and Environmental



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# STUDENT SERVICES

Birkbeck administrative and support services offer the [highest levels of service and accessibility](#).

When you enrol as a student at Birkbeck you become a member of our uniquely diverse community, which has been committed to fostering inclusion, excellence, learning and growth for more than 200 years.

## QUICK LINKS

- [Log in to My Birkbeck](#)
- [Log in to Birkbeck Moodle](#)
- [Class timetable, by school](#)
- [Enrolment](#)
- [Got a question? Ask us](#)



## WELCOME TO STUDENT SERVICES

At Birkbeck, we have a range of student services support to help you during your studies. Student Services is the place to go for support and information. Our student advisors are here to help you - whether it's money matters, wellbeing, careers or general advice.

# LOGIN TO MY BIRKBECK

Enter your username (or email address) and password to access our online services or sign up to apply for a course, enrol on a short course or engage with Birkbeck.

Username \*

Password \*

**Log in**

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[New user \(Sign up\)](#)

[Forgotten password](#)

[Set my password](#)

[IT Services](#)

[My Birkbeck for Staff](#)



Birkbeck Courses



Student Services



Study Skills



Birkbeck Library



Moodle



Ask



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# Learning outside classrooms

- ▶ Birkbeck's Study Skills workshops
- ▶ Birkbeck's research centres and institutes
- ▶ Birkbeck's career services; opportunities on LinkedIn, jobs.ac.uk, and idealist.org
- ▶ Libraries, including those outside Birkbeck, such as the Senate House, SOAS, UCL, and the British Library – check out **SCONUL**
- ▶ Additional events and resources outside Birkbeck (e.g., UoL colleges, Turing and NCRM)

# Learning outside classrooms: Study Skills workshops



Birkbeck, University of London > Student services > **Study skills**

SEARCH MENU

## STUDY SKILLS

We offer online and face-to-face advice, guidance and support to help all Birkbeck students develop the study skills they need for academic success at university. This includes:

- Study skills resources, including interactive guides, videos and recordings of past workshops in the [Study Skills Moodle module](#).
- Live [study skills workshops](#) which are offered multiple times a week during term time. There are many different topics, they are always free and you can attend as many as you wish.
- Specialist, subject-based help via our [Learning Development Tutors and resources](#).
- Access to personalised writing feedback and online tutoring via Studiosity in [My Birkbeck](#).

### CONTACT US

If you would like further information or advice about study skills, please contact the [Student Advice Service](#) or [raise a query on Birkbeck's 'Ask' system](#).

If you would like further information or advice about subject-specific study skills or library services, please [contact our dedicated subject-specific tutors](#).

### QUICK LINKS

- [Study skills workshops](#)
- [Birkbeck Study Skills \(Moodle module\)](#)
- [Learning development tutors and resources](#)

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/learning-development>

# Learning outside classrooms: Research centres and institutes



SEARCH

MENU

## RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

Our interdisciplinary centres and institutes encourage collaboration within and across Birkbeck's schools and departments, by bringing together researchers from different subjects and disciplines. They are more formal than our [academic research networks, groups and societies](#), but there are many areas of overlap and collaboration between them.

Our staff regularly feature in the media. [Find out more about their research through our 'Birkbeck in the media' summary page.](#)

### QUICK LINKS

- [Schools and departments](#)

#### RESEARCH INSTITUTES AT BIRKBECK



##### INSTITUTE FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE POLICY RESEARCH

Our aim is to improve criminal justice policy and to contribute to academic knowledge and public debate about crime and criminal justice.



##### BIRKBECK GENDER AND SEXUALITY

We provide a forum for innovative interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange in gender and sexuality studies.



##### INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES

We engage with important public issues through debates, lectures, seminars and conferences, to promote interdisciplinary research and collaboration.



##### INSTITUTE FOR DATA ANALYTICS

BIDA provides the focus and a platform for research that combines data from computing and pervasive technologies, and a wide range of academic disciplines.

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/research/centres>



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# Learning outside classrooms: Career planning



SEARCH MENU

Birkbeck, University of London > Student services > **Careers and Enterprise**

## BIRKBECK CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE

We are your career partner during your time at Birkbeck and beyond. At every stage of your career journey we empower you to take ownership of your future, helping you to make the connection between your experience, education and future ambitions.

### CONTACT US

If you want to contact us, you can [ask us a question](#) or [email one of our Careers Advisors](#).

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT TOOLS



#### ACCESS YOUR CAREER PORTALS

Find out more about the online platforms you have access to that will accelerate your career.



#### YOUR CAREER PROGRAMMES

Find out more about dedicated career programmes that you can join.



#### DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

Boost your career while studying and get access to valuable events, workshops and resources.

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/careers-and-enterprise>



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# Academic life as a PG student

- ▶ **Active learning:** We embrace *interactive* learning; come to in-person seminars/tutorials, having Watched the lecture videos and completed the readings or other preparation for the week
- ▶ **Stability with flexibility:** We aim for stability, but acknowledge the need for flexibility
- ▶ **Good communication:** We want to make this *fantastic*; please be your own best advocate and give us feedback and constructive suggestions
- ▶ **Safety:** We all want to keep you safe during your year at Birkbeck but need to work collaboratively with you to make that happen

## Key support and contact points

- ▶ **Program director** and personal tutor: **Dr Chao-Yo Cheng** ([c.cheng@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:c.cheng@bbk.ac.uk)) for academic and research questions; office hours **between 3-5pm on Fridays** via Microsoft Teams (or by appointment)
- ▶ **Program administrator** for admin or procedural matters
- ▶ **Module conveners** (see Moodle pages)
- ▶ **Dissertation supervisor**
- ▶ **Student Services** provided by the College

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## ASK US A QUESTION

What is your query about?

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/ask>

- ▶ All student inquiries should first be submitted to the **Ask** system
- ▶ Unless instructed, students are suggested not email individual administrators
- ▶ If unsure or encountering exceptional circumstances, get in touch with the program director for advice



Stay curious, stay active and stay healthy