Masterclass in Social Research

Communicating Social Research

Recap on Assessments

▶ Two **blog posts** (40%): each **1,000-word** post to summarize and reflect on two of the lectures (one b/w Weeks 2 and 5; one b/w Weeks 7-11); review materials for Week 2 workshop if needed

▶ **Critical reflection paper** (60%), a **4,000-word** (max) piece including

- A summary of your dissertation idea/project (see **Little 2016**)

- A discussion on how AI can help with your research, and

- Brief responses to the questions and/or comments/critiques that emerge from your presentation

Social Research Dissertation Fair

- ▶ Starting from Week 8, **in each workshop we will have three to four students** to present their dissertation projects

- ▶ Each presentation will last for about **15 minutes**, including discussion and Q&A moderated by the module convener (15 minutes max); we may **record your presentation** for internal use

- ▶ The main objective is to give you the opportunity to **collect feedback that can help with your dissertation** in a supportive and intimate setting; your project can be in any stage

- ▶ All students will submit their **presentation slides** before the designated deadline and address the comments in the **critical response paper**

Key Principles for Your Presentation

- **Structure and Planning**: the extent to which the presentation shows prior planning based on a clear structure and a logical sequencing of topics and ideas

- **Content**: the extent to which the presentation shows evidence of knowledge of the topic and covers relevant ideas and debates

- **Understanding**: the extent to which the presentation shows evidence of sufficient grasp of key issues to offer critical analysis and reflection

- **Communication**: the extent to which the presentation is delivered in the way to maximize communication by interacting with audience, responding to queries, and keeping to time

Presenting Your Research

- ▶ Students are free to arrange their presentations as they consider suitable for their project, but the presentation should clearly address the following items:

  - Introduction – explicitly discuss motivation and research question

  - Literature review – focus on identify the gap and/or justify hypothesis (be brief)

  - Research design and methods – make sure you fully explain and justify the methods of use

  - Preliminary or expected findings and discussion

  - Concluding remarks – reflections on big picture ("so what?"), limitations and future directions; issues for which you need feedback from your peers

Responding to Comments and Critiques

▶ At the end of your presentation, there will be a Q&A session

- Listen to the comments and questions carefully; the key is to collect as many suggestions as possible so no need respond to everything on the spot

- Stay open-minded and do not take things personally; no need to be overly defensive

▶ Read Humphreys (2017) and Choi (2022) to learn more about how researchers discuss each other's work

Responding to Comments and Critiques

▶ After the presentation, compose a written response to the comments and/or critiques in your critical reflection paper, but you should at least

- Provide a summary of the comments/critiques

- Address comments selectively and yet carefully

- Disagree with respect if you can (do explain though)

▶ Read Noble (2017) if necessary

Exercise: Writing an Abstract for Your Project

▶ Your abstract is a brief statement to introduce your research (<200 words)

- What is the main **research question**?

- What is the **gap** that your research trying to fill in based on prior literature? What is **distinctive to your own theory position or intellectual approach**?

- What is the **context and/or background**? What is the **scope condition** for general audience?

- What are **your methods and data sources**?

- What are your **benchmark findings**? What "new facts" have you found (or expect to find)? Or what key conclusions do you draw? The value-added or originality of your work within this field?

▶ Submit (1) the title and (2) complete abstract and (3) a short bio no later than **1 June 2024**