

MY410 Week 5 Seminar

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Aims for this week

- ▶ Develop your ideas for your topic, literature and research question for your formative assignment (and eventually your summative assignments perhaps) through discussion and feedback from your peers.
- ▶ Develop your skills in articulating a good literature review and research question by providing feedback on your peers' plans.
- ▶ Develop your skills in identifying and articulating methodological critiques (identifying limitations) of different research designs.

The formative assignment

- ▶ Main task: Building a research question from a literature review.
- ▶ Format: 1 page (max 500 words), incorporating:
 - References for 3 related, **empirical** articles
 - 1 paragraph introducing the topic
 - 1 paragraph outlining and critiquing the research designs, setting the background for:
 - A research question
- ▶ Due: 4pm Thursday 4 November 2021 (MT week 6)
- ▶ Full instructions on Moodle (<https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/>)

Feedback will be provided based on

- ▶ The scope of the topic – is it too broad, or just about right?
- ▶ The selection of articles – are they appropriate for the annotated bibliography?
- ▶ Your preliminary assessment/critique of the pieces and their research designs
- ▶ Your research question
- ▶ General style, prose

From articles to question(s)

As you scope the literature, you may notice that a particular research design may have one or more of the following elements:

- ▶ Tensions or contradictions between the papers;
- ▶ Extension to new context (e.g., different region, time period);
- ▶ Different theoretical perspective;
- ▶ Different methodological approach (e.g., build on more inductive work to propose some hypothesis-testing deductive approach);
- ▶ Something left unexplored (e.g., critical element not engaged with, need to consider other conditions);
- ▶ Something left untested.

Peer feedback activity

► xxx.

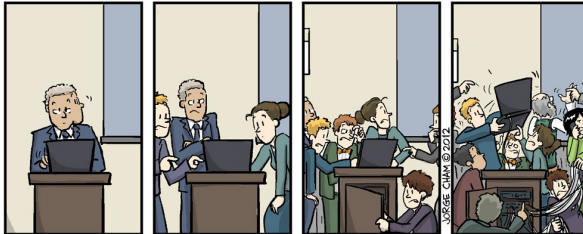
Peer feedback activity

- ▶ The topic
 - Is it clear what common topic is being addressed?
 - Is there a specific focus – or is the topic very broad or vaguely defined?
- ▶ Research design(s)
 - Are the research designs identified?
 - Are limitations of the approach appropriately identified?
 - Is there methodological diversity or not? (and what are the implications?)
- ▶ Research question(s)
 - Does the question identify a specific setting/case/location/group?
 - Does the question speak to a social science concern?
 - Is the question sufficiently clear to be feasible and tractable?

Present plans in plenary discussion

► XXX.

Q: HOW MANY PH.D.'S DOES IT TAKE TO GET A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO WORK?



ANSWER: $(n+1)$

WHERE n = THE NUMBER OF ACADEMICS IN THE ROOM WHO THINK THEY KNOW HOW TO FIX IT, AND 1 = THE PERSON WHO FINALLY CALLS THE A/V TECHNICIAN.