

Honours Qualitative Methods

Module Outline – 2018

Instructor

Eli Thorkelson
Email: elit@sun.ac.za

Purpose

This module will introduce you briefly to the basics of qualitative research. We will cover qualitative interpretation, interviews and other forms of qualitative data gathering, and then will focus more specifically on two major forms of qualitative analysis: analysis of social strategies and of social spaces.

Requirements

- Reading questions: For each class, you are required to submit *one question about each reading*, at least 30 minutes before class starts. (So if there are three readings, ask three questions!) For each day, send all your questions to me in a single email.
- Class attendance and participation, including in-class writing exercises.
- One short paper (1500-2000 words) discussing a social space and the strategies that go along with it, due May 25. This must be based on at least one successful interview that you conduct with someone.

Reading Schedule

April 23 — Interpretation

- African National Congress. 1982 [1973]. Culture in Chains. In The African Liberation Reader, edited by A. de Bragança and I. Wallerstein. 143-147. London: Zed Press.
- Anzaldúa, Gloria E. 2003. now let us shift . . . the path of conocimiento . . . inner work, public acts. In this bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation, edited by G. E. Anzaldúa and A. Keating. 540-576. New York: Routledge.
- Head, Bessie. 1996. Bessie Head: Unpublished Early Poems. English in Africa 23(1):40-46.

May 3 — Interviews

- Lehrer, Erica. 2001. The Only Jewish Bookshop in Poland. Pakn Treger 36:34-37.
- Pattman, Rob. Manuscript. Doing qualitative interview based research: a subversive recipe book, 1st edition.

May 21 — Social Strategies

- Naidu, Maheshvari. 2009. Glaring invisibility: dressing the body of the female cleaner. Anthropology Southern Africa 32 (3-4):128-138.
- Sayad, Abdelmalek. "The Original Sin and the Collective Lie." In The Suffering of the Immigrant. Translated by David Macey. 7-27. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2004.

- Wilmien Wicomb, “This Black Farmer’s Story Exposes The Nightmare That Is Land Reform”, Huff Post ZA, 9 March 2018, https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/wilmien-wicomb/a-land-reform-tragedy-thats-on-all-of-us_a_23380342/

May 24 — Spaces

- Pinto de Almeida, Fernanda. 2015. Framing interior: race, mobility and the image of home in South African modernity. *Social Dynamics* 41 (3):461-481.
- Dhupelia-Mesthrie, Uma. 2014. Speaking about building Rylands (1960s to 1980s): a Cape Flats history. *Social Dynamics* 40 (2):353-370.
- Ross, Fiona C. 2004. Sense-scapes: senses and emotion in the making of place. *Anthropology Southern Africa* 27 (1-2):35-42.