Course: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

Level and status: 3 (lecture + training session) credit points, B.A. required course for 2nd year

Lecturer: Dr. Julia Lerner

Taught: 2007/8; 2008/9; 2009/10,

Course description:

The course introduces students to one of the dominant paradigms in contemporary social sciences – the interpretative qualitative research. The course follows the origins of the interpretative perspective, its principles and assumptions and it critically discusses the relations between the "interpretation" and "modern science". As its second subject, the course addresses the qualitative research as a set of methods and tools. We explore the basic types of research design: ethnography, narrative study and discourse analysis and students train practices of data gathering: observation, interview and text analysis. Finally the course refers to the insights and results of the qualitative methods and deals with the contributions of specific interpretative studies to the important theoretical fields in the sociology and anthropology such as migration studies, class relations and organizations study.

Course requirements: students are required to read the requested materials for their training classes with TAs, submit two written assignments and approach the final exam that combines lectures and readings materials.

Grade: two written assignments (40 % of grade), final exam (80% of grade)

Course schedule and reading list:

Subject 1: Interpretative research as word-perspective

Oz, A. "Between Facts and Truth". Haaretz 27.9.92 (Hebrew)

Subject 2: Strategies of research and Data gathering


Lomsky-Feder, Rapoport Tamar and others. 2007. "To speak their language? – strangeness, home and power relations in interviews with immigrants". Megamot 34. (Hebrew)


Tene, Ofra. 2005. "That's how we'll cook an Israeli home: Reading from the cooking books in Israel from 30es to 80es". (Hebrew)


Subject 3: What we learn from the qualitative research?


