

Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Faculty for Humanities and Social Science

### **Research in Africa: Ethics, Methodologies and Practices**

Lecturer: Dr. Noa Levy

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Office hours: Tuesday, 13:00, the Tamar Golan Africa Centre, building 74, room 459.

This course will review trends, methodologies, and ethical considerations in qualitative research in Africa and discuss key political considerations in field research through lenses of power. We will acquire essential tools in qualitative methodologies and employ them during the semester through field practices, reflexive writing, and analysis.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance & reading – obligatory

30% - Report on semi-structured interview

30% - Report on participant observation

40% - Report on group interview/ visual sources/ digital ethnography

#### **Weekly Meetings: (Subject to Change)**

##### **March 22, week 1: The politics of research in Africa**

- Krenčeyová, Michaela (2014). Who is Allowed to Speak about Africa? A Reflection on Knowledge, Positionality, and Authority in Africanist Scholarship. *Africa Insight*, 44(1): 8-22.
- Mama, Amina (2007). Is it ethical to study Africa? Preliminary thoughts on scholarship and freedom. *African Studies Review*, 50: 1-7.
- Smith, Linda Tuhiwai (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. Zed books, Introduction.

### **March 29, week 2: Researcher's positioning**

- Mandiyanike, David (2009). The dilemma of conducting research back in your own country as a returning student – reflections of research fieldwork in Zimbabwe. *Area*, 41(1): 64-71.
- Berger, Roni (2015). "Now I see it, now I don't": Researcher's position and reflexivity in qualitative research." *Qualitative research*, 15(2): 219-234.
- Ganga, Deianira, & Scott, Sam (2006). Cultural "insiders" and the issue of positionality in qualitative migration research: Moving "across" and moving "along" researcher-participant divides. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 7(3).

### **April 5, week 3: Interview workshop**

- Weiss, Robert (1996). *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press, Chapters 1, 4, 6.

### **April 12, week 4: Field practice: Interview**

### **April 26, week 5: Working with vulnerable populations**

- Mackenzie, Catriona, McDowell, Christopher, & Pittaway, Eileen (2007). Beyond 'do no harm': The challenge of constructing ethical relationships in refugee research. *Journal of Refugee studies*, 20(2): 299-319.
- Gallagher, Michael (2008). Power is not an evil: Rethinking power in participatory methods. *Children's Geographies*, 6(2): 137-150.

### **May 3, week 6: Interview analysis**

- Clarke, Leah K., & Borders, DiAnne L. (2014) "You got to apply seriousness": A phenomenological inquiry of liberian refugees' coping. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 92: 294-303.
- Josselson, Ruthellen (2004). The hermeneutics of faith and the hermeneutics of suspicion. *Narrative Inquiry*, 14(1): 1-29.

### **May 10, week 7: Guest lecture 1**

- Reading material will be provided at a later stage

**May 17, week 8: Ethnography workshop**

- Geertz, Clifford (1972). Notes on the Balinese cockfight. *Daedalus*, 101(1): 1-37.

**May 24, week 9: Field practice: Participant observation**

**June 7, week 10: Field note analysis**

- Johnson, Allen, & Johnson, Orna R. (1990) Quality into quantity: On the measurement potential of ethnographic fieldnotes. In *Fieldnotes: The Making of Anthropology*, edited by Roger Sanjek. Cornell University Press, 161-186.

**June 14, week 11: Guest lecture 2**

- Reading material will be provided at a later stage

**June 21, week 12: Field practice: Group interview/ visual sources/ digital ethnography**

**June 28, week 13: Summary**

- Humble, Darryl (2012). "This isn't getting easier": Valuing emotion in development research. *Emotion, Space and Society* 5: 78-85.

Have a wonderful semester!