

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

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)

Bertaux, D.,1981, "From the Life History approach to the Transformation of Sociological Practice". In D. Bertaux (ed),Biography and Society. London: Sage, pp.29-46.

Hazan, H. Anthropological Discourse. Ministry of Defense Publishing. (Ch. 1-4). (Hebrew)

Bilu, Yoram. 1983. "The Dibbuk in Judaism: Psychological Disorder as Cultural Resource". Pp. 529-563 in Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Thought. (Hebrew)

Katriel, Tamar. 1999. Key Words: Cultural Patterns and Communication in Israel. Tel Aviv: Haifa University (Pp. 148-167).

Elor, Tamar. 1998. Next Passover: Women and Literacy among Religious Zionists. Tel-Aviv: Am Oved. (Ch. 2, Pp. 47-84). (Hebrew)

Narayan, Kirin. 1997. "How Native is a "Native Anthropologist", Pp. 23-41 in *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Life*, ed. by L. Lamphere, H. Ragone and P. Zavella. Routledge: London;

Subject 2: Strategies of research and Data gathering

- Whyte, W.F. 1981. "Street Corner Society". Pp. 357-372 in *Intercultural Experience*. (translated into Hebrew)
- Feige Michael (2008). "Mini Israel: The Israeli Place Between the Global and the Miniature", pp.329-344 in Julia Brauch, Anna Lipphardt, Alexandra Nocke (Eds.) *Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Tradition and Place*. Ashgate, London. (Hebrew version)
- Elor, Tamar. 1992. *Educated and Ignorant*. Tel-Aviv: Am Oved. Pp. 67-82, Chapter "Research methods". (Hebrew)
- Carmeli, Y. 1991. "The Stranger and the Clown: Lessons from the participant observation at the Circus". *Bama* 25: 88-105 (Hebrew).
- Herzog, Hanna. 2005. "On Home Turf: Interview Location and Its Social Meaning". *Qualitative Sociology* Vol. 28 (1). Pp. 25-47.
- Lomsky-Feder, Rapoport Tamar and others. 2007. "To speak their language? – strangeness, home and power relations in interviews with immigrants". *Megamot* 34. (Hebrew)
- Hellbeck, I. "Formation of Stalinist Soul: Diary of Stephan Podlobniy", *ZMANIM* 59: 86-101. (translated into 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)
- Noy, Chaim. *Mediation Materialized: The Semiotics of a Visitor Book at an Israel Commemoration Site*. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 25(2): 175-195.

Subject 3: What we learn from the qualitative research?

- Brazilay, S. 2004. "Life-Stories as a research tool". Pp. in *Breaking the Mea Shaarim*. Tel-Aviv: Yediot Aharonot. (Hebrew).
- Golden, D. 2003. "Now like real Israelis we'll stand up and sing": teaching national language to Russian immigrants in Israel". *Megamot* 32 (3): 388-411. (Hebrew)
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. 2004. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. Selected chapters. (translated into Hebrew).
- Ortner, Sh. B. 2005. *New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture and Class of 58'*. Durham: Duke University Press (selected pages)
- Kunda, Gideon. 2000. *Engineering Culture: control and Commitment in a high-tech corporation* (selected pages). (Hebrew version)