



# "Conducting Research in Israel Studies" (16.2.2030)

Fall Semester, 2024  
Tuesday 14:30-16:00

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The objective of this course is to provide the students with basic understanding of the complexities in constructing an academic study, with the goal of establishing proficiencies in reading and constructing a research methodology in Israel Studies. The course will survey the different methodologies in social sciences and will teach how to conduct a research from interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives. Special attention will be given to the relation between the research method, the research topic, the research questions, the research arguments and context of the study.

## Topics to be discussed during the course:

- (1) Theory, research and scientific explanation
- (2) Israel Studies as Area Studies
- (3) Disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research
- (4) Fundamental concepts in scientific research: of research question, hypotheses, structure of research
- (5) Stages of scientific research
- (6) Research Methodologies: participant observation, historical analysis, in-depth interviews, content analysis, focus groups, surveys, experiments
- (7) Research biases
- (8) Ethical questions

### Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in classes. Class attendance will not be taken. However, class participation is part of the final grade and you will be expected to include issues discussed during class in the final essay.
2. Reading of the bibliographic items.
3. Each participant must submit five experimental exercises:
  - A. Analysis of secondary sources
  - B. In-depth interviews
  - C. Content analysis
  - D. Participant observation
  - E. Choosing a research method

### Selected Bibliography and class description:

#### **Class 1: Israel Studies as Area Studies**

Lihong, Song. 2021. *From Enemy Studies to Area Studies: Reflections on Israel Studies in China*. The Harvard-Yenching Institute Working Paper.

Booth, Wayne, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago press. Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

#### **Class 2: Disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research**

Booth, Wayne, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago press. Chapters 6, 7 and 9.

Small, Mario Luis Small. 2011. "How to Conduct a Mixed Methods Study: Recent Trends in a Rapidly Growing Literature." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37(1): 57-86.

#### **Class 3: Fundamental concepts in scientific research**

Lieberson, Stanley, and Freda B. Lynn. 2002. "Barking up the wrong branch: Scientific alternatives to the current model of sociological science." *Annual Review of Sociology* 28(1): 1-19.

Schutt, Russell K. 2011. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 7th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. Chapters 2 and 4.

#### **Class 4: Qualitative and Quantitative analysis**

Mahoney, James, and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A tale of two cultures: Contrasting quantitative and qualitative research." *Political analysis* 14(3): 227-249.

#### **Class 5: Experiments and Surveys**

Powell, Benjamin, Jeff R. Clark, and Alex Nowrasteh. 2017. "Does mass immigration destroy institutions? 1990s Israel as a natural experiment." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 141: 83-95.

Gould, Eric D., Victor Lavy, M. Daniele Paserman. 2004. "Immigrating to Opportunity: Estimating the Effect of School Quality Using a Natural Experiment on Ethiopians in Israel," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 119(2): 489–526.

Schutt, Russell K. 2011. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 7th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. Chapters 6 and 7, 8 and 14.

#### **Class 6: Participant observation**

Monterescu, Daniel. 2009. "To buy or not to be: Trespassing the gated community." *Public Culture* 21(2): 403-430.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 2011. *Writing ethnographic fieldnotes*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

#### **Class 7: In-depth interviews**

Remennick, Larissa. 2015. "The Two Waves of Russian-Jewish Migration from the USSR/FSU to Israel: Dissidents of the 1970s and Pragmatics of the 1990s." *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 18(1-2): 44-66.

Helman, Sara. 1999. "Negotiating obligations, creating rights: Conscientious objection and the redefinition of citizenship in Israel," *Citizenship Studies*, 3(1): 45-70.

Lamont, Michèle, and Ann Swidler. 2014. "Methodological pluralism and the possibilities and limits of interviewing." *Qualitative Sociology* 37(2): 153-171.

### **Class 8: Historical and Comparative Sociology**

Ben-Eliezer, Uri. 1998. "State Versus Civil Society? A Non-Binary Model of Domination Through the Example of Israel." *Journal of Historical Sociology* 11(3): 370-396.

Schutt, Russell K. 2011. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 7th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. Chapter 12.

### **Class 9: Content analysis**

Amit, Hila Amit. 2019. "Israel, Zionism and emigration anxiety: the case of Israeli Academia", *Settler Colonial Studies*, 9(1): 6-21,

Stemler, Steve. 2001. "An Overview of Content Analysis" *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation* 7(17): 137-146.

### **Class 10: Case Studies**

Cohen, Nir. 2007. "State, Migrants, and the Negotiation of Second-Generation Citizenship in the Israeli Diaspora," *Diaspora* 16(1/2): 133–158.

Gerring, John. 2004. "What is a case study and what is it good for?." *American political science review* 98(2): 341-354.

### **Class 11: Research biases and Ethical questions**

Schutt, Russell K. 2011. *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research*. 7th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. Chapter 3.

### **Class 12: Choosing a research method**

Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2: 131-50.

Booth, Wayne, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago press. Chapters 3, 4 and 5.