

## **Course CP 601**

### **Research Methods - Compulsory**

**Course Instructors – Faculty of CCPPT**

**Credits : 4**

**Contact Hours : 4 per week**

**Evaluation: 1 short research project and end-semester examination**

#### **Introduction**

This course will combine theory and practice by identifying specific methods used across social science disciplines, with some theoretical readings around each method. While CCPPT prioritizes a comparative method, this would be different from the conventional understanding of the comparative method as comparing across states or nations. Comparisons would rather be across disciplines, broad regions, cultures, intellectual traditions and so on.

Students are expected to do short research projects over the semester using some of the methods taught.

#### **Course content**

##### **1. Quantitative and Survey**

From *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Barry Hedges 'Sampling' (Ch 8)

Moser and Kalton 'Questionnaires' (Ch 9)

Herbert H Hyman et al 'Interviewing in Social research' (Ch 10)

K Jill Kiecolt and Laura E Nathan 'Secondary analysis of survey data' (Ch 16)

##### **Critiques of quantification**

Karl Popper *Conjectures And Refutations. The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* Basic Books, New York, London, 1962. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

From *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Ian Hacking 'The Taming of Chance' (Ch 15)

Cathie Marsh 'The Critics of Surveys' (Ch 23)

R C Lewontin 'Sex, Lies and Social Science' (Ch 25)

## **2. The comparative method**

Charles Ragin *The Comparative Method. Moving beyond qualitative and quantitative strategies*. University of California Press, 1987. Chapters 1 and 2

Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, 2003.

Timothy Mitchell "The Limits Of The State: Beyond Statist Approaches. And Their Critics" *American Political Science Review* Vol 85 No. 1, March 1991.

Robert Bates *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* 2009.

## **3. Historiography and Ethnography**

Articles in 'Ethnography: the qualitative alternative' (Part 7) and 'Qualitative Interviewing' (Part 8) of *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Alon Confino 'Collective Memory and Cultural History: Problems of Method' *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 102, No. 5. (Dec., 1997), pp. 1386-1403.

Priyadarshini Vijaisri 'In pursuit of the Virgin Whore: Writing caste/Outcaste Histories' *EPW* October 30, 2010.

James Clifford, "Introduction: Partial Truths" in *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography* (Berkeley, 1986) pp. 1-26

Gyan Prakash 1990 "Writing Post-Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Perspectives from Indian Historiography" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (Vol. 32 No 2 April)

Arif Dirlik, "Is there History after Eurocentricism? Globalism, Eurocentrism and the Disavowal of History" in *History after the Three Worlds: Post Eurocentric Historiographies*, (Oxford, 2000) pp. 25-48

Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson "The field as site method and location in anthropology" in Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson eds *Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science*, University of California Press, 1997.

#### **4. Reading and interpreting texts of different kinds – official reports, newspaper articles, works of theory and thought.**

Ranjit Guha 'The Prose of Counter Insurgency' in *The Small Voice of History*, Permanent Black, Ranikhet

Articles in 'Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the Linguistic Turn' Part 11 of *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Jasmina Lukic and Adelina Sanchez Espinosa 'Feminist Perspectives on Close Reading', *Theories and Methodologies of Postgraduate Feminist Research* eds. Rosemary Buikema, Gabriele Griffin and Nina Lykke, Routledge 2011.

Paul Ricoeur "The Model of the Text: Meaningful Action considered as a Text" in Paul Ricoeur, *From Text to Action: Essays in Hermeneutics II*.

#### **5. Reading Visual Culture**

Collier and Collier 'Principles of Visual Research' in *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Ken Plummer 'On the Diversity of Life Documents' in *Social Science Research Methods* ed Clive Seal, Routledge 2008

Rosemary Buikema and Marta Zarzycka 'Visual Cultures: feminist perspectives' in *Theories and Methodologies of Postgraduate Feminist Research* eds. Rosemary Buikema, Gabriele Griffin and Nina Lykke, Routledge 2011.

Ajay J. Sinha 'Visual Culture and the Politics of Locality in Modern India: A Review Essay', *Modern Asian Studies* 41, 1 (2007)

## 6. Critiques of mainstream social science research

Arif Dirlik "The postcolonial aura: Third World criticism in the age of global capitalism" *Critical Enquiry* Vol. 20, No. 2 (Winter, 1994).

Paul Feyerabend (1975) *Against Method. Outline of an anarchistic theory of knowledge*. Verso, 1993.

William A. Gorton *Karl Popper and the Social Sciences*, State University of New York Press, 2006

Lester-Irabinna Rigney 'Internationalization of an Indigenous Anticolonial Cultural Critique of research methodologies' *Wicazo Sa Review* Vol 14, No. 2 1999

Queeneth Mkabela 'Using the Afrocentric Method in Researching Indigenous African Culture' *The Qualitative Report* Volume 10 Number 1 March 2005

Joan Scott 'Experience' in Scott and Butler ed. *Feminists Theorize the Political* Routledge 1992

Anandhi S and Meera Velayudhan 'Rethinking Feminist methodologies' *EPW* October 30, 2010

Gopal Guru 'How egalitarian are the social sciences in India?' *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 37, No. 50 (Dec. 14-20, 2002)

Timothy Mitchell "The work of Economics: How a discipline makes its world", *European Journal of Sociology*, Volume 46 Issue 02, August 2005