Course CP 601
Research Methods - Compulsory

Course Instructors – Faculty of CCPPT

Credits : 3
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

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


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*


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)


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

Ranajit 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


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


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


6. Critiques of mainstream social science research


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)