

**Sociology 108**

**ADVANCED METHODS: INTERVIEWING**  
**Spring 2015**  
**402 Barrows**

---

**PROFESSOR KRISTIN LUKER**  
Office: 2240 Piedmont

---

**SYLLABUS**

Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:15-6:15pm  
222 JSP building  
2240 Piedmont  
([www.wejoinin.com/kluker@law.berkeley.edu](http://www.wejoinin.com/kluker@law.berkeley.edu))  
Email: [kluker@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:kluker@law.berkeley.edu)

**Course Description:**

All of us interview each other all of the time, whether we know it or not: “How was the movie?” or “Did you like that new restaurant?” Interviewing within the social sciences, however, has a different set of goals and procedures that in some ways mimic--- and in other ways radically depart from---the kinds of informal interviews most of us conduct on a daily basis.

Interviewing in the social sciences has a long pedigree, and over the last century social scientists of all stripes have tried to formalize and operationalize the techniques and philosophies involved. In recent years, however, post-modernism has problematized much of the process of interviewing, with the interview increasingly being seen as a “discursive” “performance” produced by the interviewer and the interviewee working together in a particular historical and social context.

What does this mean for social scientists who wish to study social life as something other than “text?” How do we build theory in the face of post-modern critiques? What does postmodernism do to day-to-day interviewing?

This course examines these issues both as epistemological and practical concerns, and seeks to teach students how to conduct research interviews in a reflexive and rigorous way.

**Required Reading Materials:**

There is a course reader available at Copy Central 2576 Bancroft Way

**Additional materials may be added to the bCourse website as the course proceeds.**

### Reading Assignments

#### Week One: January 22<sup>nd</sup> **Introduction to the Issues of the Course**

*Writing for Sociology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, available at:

[http://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student\\_services/writing\\_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf](http://sociology.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_services/writing_guide/Writing%20for%20Sociology%20Guide%20Second%20Edition.pdf) pages 13-15.

“Bloom’s Taxonomy”

Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. (2012) *Decolonizing Methodologies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: St Martin’s Press. Introduction.

#### Week Two: January 29<sup>th</sup> **Qualitative Research: History, Theory and Objectives**

Alford, R. R. (1998) *The Craft Of Inquiry : Theories, Methods, Evidence*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Katz, Jack. (1997) “Ethnography's Warrants.” *Sociological Methods & Research* 25: 391.

#### Week Three: February 5<sup>th</sup> **Dilemmas of Qualitative Research Design, and What Counts as a “Contribution?”**

Murray Davis, “That’s Interesting!” *Phil Soc Sci*, (1), 1971

Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, Chapter Four: What Marriage Means.”

### MEMO ONE DUE

#### Week Four: February 12<sup>th</sup> **Ethics of Interviewing and the IRB**

Dvora Yanow. (2008) “Reforming Institutional Review Board Policy: Issues in Implementation and Field Research.” *Political Science and Politics* 41: 483-494.

Levine, Felice. (2008) “Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Aligning IRBs and Research Practice.” *Political Science and Politics* 41: 501-505.

Katherine S. Newman. 2002. “Qualitative Research on the Frontlines of Controversy.” *Sociological Methods and Research* 31(2): 123-130..

## MEMO TWO DUE

### Week Five: February 19<sup>th</sup> **Qualitative Research Design: Choosing a Question**

Burawoy, Michael. (1998) "The Extended Case Method." *Sociological Theory* 16 (1): 4-33.

Iddo Tavory and Stefan Timmermans. (2009) "Two Cases of Ethnography: Grounded Theory and the Extended Case Method." *Ethnography* 10 (3): 243-263.

**CITI Training: By this week, you must have completed the first two modules of Berkeley's training in research ethics and best practices**

## MEMO THREE DUE

### Week Six: February 26<sup>h</sup> **Sampling, Operationalization, Generalization**

Robert S. Weiss. (1995) *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. Free Press. "Respondents: Choosing Them and Recruiting Them," Ch. 2.

Mario Small. (2009) "How Many Cases Do I Need? On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field-Based Research." *Ethnography* 10 (1): 5-38.\*

Michele Lamont. (2002) *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. Introduction, pp. 1-12 and Appendices A-C, pp. 251-268.

### Week Seven: March 5<sup>th</sup> **Choosing a Site, Designing an Instrument**

Herbert Clark and Michael Schober. (1992) "Asking Questions and Influencing Answers," in *Questions about Questions: Inquiries into the Cognitive Bases of Surveys*, edited by Judith M. Tanor. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Joseph C. Hermanowicz. (2002) "The Great Interview: 25 Strategies for Studying People in Bed." *Qualitative Sociology* 25 (4): 479-499.

Nina Eliasoph. (1999) "Everyday Racism in a Culture of Political Avoidance: Civil Society, Speech, and Taboo." *Social Problems* 46 (4): 479-502.

Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson, the Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism, Chapter Two: "What They Believe." Pp. 45-82

## MEMO FOUR DUE

### Week Eight: March 12<sup>th</sup> **Gaining Entrée**

Morrill, Calvin, David B. Buller, Mary Klein Buller, and Linda L. Larkey. (1999) "Toward an Organizational Perspective on Identifying and Managing Formal Gatekeepers." *Qualitative Sociology* 22: 51-72.

Terry Arendell. (1997) "Reflections on the Researcher-Researched Relationship: A Woman Interviewing Men." *Qualitative Sociology* 20 (3): 341-68.

Karyn Lacy, *Blue-Chip Black: Race, Class, and Status in the New Black Middle Class* (George Gund Foundation Imprint in African American Studies), Appendix

### Week Nine: March 19<sup>th</sup> **Analyzing Interviews: Thematic Coding**

David A. Snow, Calvin Morill, and Leon Anderson. (2003) "Elaborating Analytic Ethnography: Linking Fieldwork and Theory." *Ethnography* 4 (2): 181-200.

Auerbach, C. F. and L. B. Silverstein. (2003) *Qualitative Data: An Introduction to Coding and Analysis*, New York: New York University Press, pp. 31-53.

Anselm Strauss. (1987) "Codes and Coding," in *Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 55-81.

## MEMO FIVE DUE

### March 23-27 **Spring Recess; No Classes Meet.**

### Week Ten: April 2<sup>nd</sup> **Analyzing Interviews: CAQDAS, Boolean Analysis and Other Tools**

Ann Lewins and Christina Silver. (2009) Choosing a CAQDAS Package, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Available on-line at:  
<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/sociology/research/researchcentres/caqdas/support/choosing/>

James W. Carey. (1996) "Intercoder Agreement in Analysis of Responses to Open-Ended Interview Questions: Examples from Tuberculosis Research." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta.*

Week Eleven: April 9<sup>th</sup> **Quantitative and other Supporting Data: Building Theory**

Roth, W. and J. D. Mehta. (2002) "The Rashomon Effect: Combining Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches in the Analysis of Contested Events." *Sociological Methods & Research* 31(2): 131.

Bazeley, P. (2002) "Issues in Mixing Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Research," Presented at 1st International Conference - Qualitative Research in Marketing and Management, University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna.

Week Twelve: April 16<sup>th</sup> **Trouble Shooting**

Briggs, C. L. (1986) *Learning How to Ask: A Sociolinguistic Appraisal of the Role of the Interview in Social Science Research*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter Three, pp.39-61.

Week Thirteen: April 23<sup>rd</sup> **Writing and Publishing**

Laurel Richardson. (2005) "Writing: A Method of Inquiry," pp.959-978 in *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Third Edition, edited by Norman Denzin and Yvonna Lincoln. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage.

Wolcott, H. (2002) "Writing up Qualitative Research...Better." *Qualitative Health Research* 12:91.

Lindlof and Taylor (2002) "Authoring and writing," In Lindlof and Taylor, *Qualitative Communication Research Methods*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 279-312.

Week Fourteen b April 30<sup>th</sup> **Overview and Summary**

**More readings may be assigned. Keep watching bCourses**