

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

**16:762:626:01 ADVANCED SCHOLARLY RESEARCH**

Wednesday, 1:10-3:50 p.m. Civic Square, Room 173

**ROBERT W. LAKE**

Spring 2012

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday, 2-4 p.m., or by appointment.  
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***OVERVIEW***

This seminar is designed for PhD students who are engaged in the process of writing and defending their doctoral dissertation proposal. As an outline for an original research project, a dissertation proposal is two things at once, one general and one very specific. The seminar will encompass both the general and specific dimensions of proposal writing through collaborative reading, discussion, and critique.

At a general level, a dissertation proposal defines, describes, and justifies a project whose goal, among others, is the creation of knowledge. Preparing a dissertation proposal thus situates the writer in the context of broad questions involving the value and purpose of intellectual activity; the collective nature of paradigmatic thinking; processes of critique and analysis; methods of concept formation, data collection, and analysis; and questions of audience, narrative method, voice, and language. Reading and discussion throughout the semester will provide an opportunity for seminar members to explicitly engage with these questions with respect to their individual research projects.

At the same time, and at a very specific level, a dissertation proposal presents a detailed route map for the initiation and completion of a unique research project. Components of a satisfactory proposal include a problem statement; a set of research(able) questions; a review of the relevant literature; a detailed description of methods for data collection and analysis; a discussion of likely findings; and a timeline for completion. Seminar members will write and submit sections of their proposals throughout the semester for collaborative critique and discussion by the seminar as a whole.

These two conversations, the general and the specific, will proceed in tandem, each informing the other. By the end of the semester, each seminar member will have completed a draft dissertation proposal that reflects the broad questions of knowledge creation while also providing a detailed guide to the performance of his or her doctoral dissertation research.

***REQUIREMENTS***

Participation in Advanced Scholarly Research requires:

1. Regular and engaged reading and participation in seminar discussions.
2. Writing and submitting sections of your proposal according to the schedule of submission dates provided in this syllabus.
3. Collaborative critique and discussion of each seminar member's proposal sections.
4. Written and oral presentation of a complete draft dissertation proposal.

Due dates for submission and discussion of proposal sections are as follows:

		<b>Submission</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Problem Statement	1-2 pages	February 1	February 8
Research Questions	3-5 pages	February 15	February 22
Literature Review	10-15 pages	March 7	March 21
Methods	5-10 pages	March 28	April 4
Final proposal and oral presentation		April 18 and April 25	

### **READINGS**

Articles and book chapters listed in this syllabus will be posted on the course Sakai site. In addition, I strongly recommend purchasing the following texts:

Andrew Abbott. 2004. *Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences*. NY: WW Norton.

Charles Ragin and Howard Becker, eds. 1992. *What Is A Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

*The following may also be useful resources:*

Howard Becker. 1986. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Howard Becker. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

John Creswell. 2008. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Glen Firebaugh. 2008. *Seven Rules for Social Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

William Germano. 2005. *From Dissertation to Book*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lawrence Locke *et al.* 2000. *Proposals That Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertation and Grant Proposals*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman, and Patrizia Albanese. 2009. *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Peg Boyle Single. 2010. *Demystifying Dissertation Writing*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

Kate L. Turabian. 2007. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

- Jan. 18      **INTRODUCTION – Seminar overview, goals, procedures**
- Jan. 25      **KNOWLEDGE CREATION - I: ON THE ROLE OF THE INTELLECTUAL**  
 Thomas Osborne. 2004. "On mediators: intellectuals and the ideas trade in the knowledge society." *Economy and Society* 33: 430-447.  
 Steve Fuller. 2004. "Intellectuals: an endangered species in the twenty-first century?" *Economy and Society* 33: 463-483.  
 Richard Rorty. 1999. "The humanistic intellectual: eleven theses," in *Philosophy and Social Hope*. London: Penguin Books, pp. 127-130.
- Feb. 1      **KNOWLEDGE CREATION - II: ON BEING PART OF THE CONVERSATION**  
**Submit Problem Statement**  
 Thomas Kuhn. 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-34, 111-135.  
 Richard Rorty. 1999. "Thomas Kuhn, Rocks and the Laws of Physics," in *Philosophy and Social Hope*. London: Penguin Books, pp. 175-189.  
 Albert Hirschman. 1970. "The search for paradigms as a hinderance to understanding," *World Politics* 26: 329-343.
- Feb. 8      **Review and Discuss Problem Statements**
- Feb. 15      **CRITIQUE, CRITICAL THEORY AND THE ANALYTICAL VIEW**  
**Submit Research Questions**  
 Bruno Latour. 2004. "Why has critique run out of steam? From matters of fact to matters of concern." *Critical Inquiry* 30: 225-248.  
 Neil Brenner. 2009. "What is critical urban theory?" *City* 13: 198-207.  
 Wendy Brown. 2005. "At the edge: The future of political theory," in *Edgework: Critical Essays on Knowledge and Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 60-82  
 Charles Tilly. 2004. "Reasons why." *Sociological Theory* 22: 445-454.
- Feb. 22      **Review and Discuss Research Questions**
- Feb. 29      **HEURISTICS: METHODS OF DISCOVERY**  
 Andrew Abbott. 2004. *Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences*. NY: W.W. Norton.

March 7 **METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

**Submit Literature Review**

Charles Rabin and Howard Becker, eds. 1992. *What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Lee Peter Ruddin. 2006. "You can generalize stupid! Social scientists, Bent Flyvbjerg, and case study methodology." *Qualitative Inquiry* 12: 797-812.

John Law. 2004. "And if the global were small and incoherent? Method, complexity, and the baroque." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 22: 13-26.

Elvin Wyly. 2009. "Strategic positivism." *Professional Geographer* 61: 310-322.

March 14 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**

March 21 **Review and Discuss Literature Reviews**

March 28 **AUDIENCE, NARRATIVE, VOICE, LANGUAGE**

**Submit Methods Section**

Michael Warner. 2005. "Styles of Intellectual Publics." ch. 3 in *Publics and Counterpublics*. NY: Zion Books, pp. 125-158.

Thomas Kaplan. 1993. "Reading policy narratives: Beginnings, middles, and ends," in Frank Fischer and John Forester, eds., *The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 167-185.

John Dryzek. 1993. "Policy analysis and planning: From science to argument," in Frank Fischer and John Forester, eds., *The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 213-232.

William Cronon. 1992. "A place for stories: nature, history, and narrative." *Journal of American History* 78: 1347-1376.

April 4 **Review and Discuss Methods Section**

April 11 **Prepare Final Proposal and Oral Presentations**

James O. Wheeler. 1996. "Writing abstracts." *Urban Geography* 17: 283-285.

Lawrence Locke et al. 2000. "The oral presentation." In *Proposals That Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertation and Grant Proposals*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, pp. 131-146.

April 18 **Final Proposal and Oral Presentations**

April 25 **Final Proposal and Oral Presentations**