Welcome to the School of Social Sciences
Doctoral Master Class Programme!

We are delighted to bring you the Social Sciences Doctoral Master Class Programme for 2013-14. This programme is a core element of the School’s Research Student Programme.

The School of Social Sciences offers you a research-intensive environment and a stimulating research culture, which our doctoral students play an active part in creating. Research in the Social Sciences is increasingly interdisciplinary. This is reflected in the diverse backgrounds of our doctoral student cohort, and in the training opportunities offered within individual Departments and across the School.

This guide will provide you with full details of our 26 Master Classes. These form part of the doctoral student training and development support that is available to you.
School of Social Sciences Doctoral Training Programme

Our PhD Research Training Programme consists of eight inter-related elements offered by our School, by individual Departments as well as by the Graduate School. All of these have been designed to enable you to succeed in your studies.

The eight interrelated elements are:

(i) Induction Workshops for New and Returning students (School)**
(ii) Thesis Supervision (Department)
(iii) Doctoral Students Master Class Programme (School)**
(iv) Departmental / Research Centre Seminar Programmes (Department)
(v) PhD Student Presentation Days (Department)**
(vi) Researcher Development Programme (Graduate School)
(vii) School of Social Sciences Staff/Student Research Conference (School)
(viii) Audit of a wide range of Masters Modules (introductory / intermediate level) (School)

** = Compulsory for all Doctoral Students in the School of Social Sciences

Taking part in all elements of this programme is strongly encouraged. There are some elements that are compulsory and the Social Sciences Research Student Handbook covers this in more detail.

Doctoral Master Classes

Our Doctoral Master Classes run throughout the year and are open to all doctoral students in the School, irrespective of the Department in which you are based. These Master Classes are facilitated by leading researchers in the School, and provide an excellent opportunity for you to meet with them and with fellow students from other Departments whilst developing your skills. Our Master Classes cover a range of methodological and conceptual issues, as well as general research skills and professional development. They are organised across three broad themes:

Theory: Pages 4-6
Designed to help you understand the history, philosophy and context within which social science research is carried out.
How many Master Classes do I have to take?

Students in the School of Social Sciences are required to take a minimum of six Master Classes over a three year Full-Time PhD, although you are very welcome to take more. The School recognises that your pattern of study may be affected by activities such as field work or data collection etc, and the spread of Master Classes may be changed in consultation with your supervisor. We recommend the following pattern:

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<th>Full time</th>
<th>Part-time/New Route</th>
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<td>Induction Workshop</td>
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Identifying your needs

You should discuss your wider learning requirements with your supervisor and identify what research training you need at the start of the year. Additionally, training needs are likely to be identified throughout the research process and at the Annual Review.

Whilst it is essential to attend the sessions that are directly relevant to your own research, we also recommend that you attend as many as possible. This will enable you to acquire a broad range of advanced and transferable research skills by the end of your PhD.

Students who require an introduction to a research method, a topic, or an introduction to substantive area of social science can audit a wide range of Masters modules in the School. Please discuss this with your supervisor who can help you identify modules that are most appropriate for your needs. See the Student Handbook for details of how to book.

When are the Master Classes?

The Master Classes will run throughout the academic year. Most are one-session slots. A full timetable is included on pages 8 – 9.

How do I book myself onto one?

To Register, please complete the online Master Class Booking Form which is available in the Postgraduate section, on the Resources Page below:

http://www.brunel.ac.uk/sss/resources
Ideas in Context

Dr Peter D Thomas (Politics and History)

The selection of key concepts, ideas or theories as a ‘framework’ for further research is a decisive moment in the early stages of any research project in the social sciences and humanities. Can the history of these ideas and theories be a productive consideration for the beginning researcher, or should we simply ‘use what we can’ from the ‘theoretical toolbox’ of contemporary theories? This workshop will suggest that recognition of the historical emergence and transformation of key concepts and theoretical paradigms can help to strengthen the critical dimensions of a research project’s design and early development. The workshop will explore different approaches from the history of ideas and intellectual history, and discuss their relevance for research projects in the social sciences and humanities. Approaches examined in this workshop will include Cultural Materialism (Raymond Williams), the ‘Cambridge School’ (Skinner), conceptual history (Koselleck) and historical-critical philology (Gramsci).

PRE-REQUISITES: None


History of the Social Sciences

Dr John Roberts (Sociology and Communications)

This session introduces students to a range of key debates about the nature, purpose and practice of social science. Who has been instrumental in creating your discipline, and importantly, who has been excluded? How do disciplines and professions develop? How are they contested? What are the social and historical processes shaping the practices and development of the social sciences? How should ‘history’ be incorporated into research? What is the most productive unit of analysis for exploring the making and shaping of aspects of the social science: ideas, individuals, departments, disciplines, institutions, countries, fields, books, teaching, journals, publics? Students will be able to appreciate the significance of historical reflection for the actual practice of their own (and others’) research in the social sciences.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Professor Steven Wainwright (Sociology and Communications)

This session introduces students to a range of key theoretical debates about the nature, purpose and practice of social science. We explore a range of philosophical approaches to the social sciences, from positivism and empiricism, to hermeneutics, Marxism, and post-modernism. We discuss the relationship between theoretical debates in particular disciplines to those within the wider social sciences. Students will be able to appreciate the significance of epistemological reflection for the actual practice of their own (and others’) research in the social sciences.

PRE-REQUISITES: None


Research Ethics

Dr John MacMillan (Politics and History)

This Master Class will consider the ethical issues pertaining to research in the social sciences, in particular in studies involving ‘human participants’. Knowledge and awareness of this aspect of research is vital for researchers and insisted upon by key funders, not least the ESRC. The session will outline key themes and issues in research ethics and participants will have the opportunity to apply these to specific case studies such as to draw out the philosophical and normative dimensions of research ethics in the social sciences.

PRE-REQUISITES: None


Phenomenology as Qualitative Research: Key Contributors and Contemporary Debates

Dr Jay Shaw (Health Sciences and Social Care)

Phenomenology has been applied as a qualitative research methodology to explore meaningful lived experiences in many domains of contemporary social life. While phenomenological philosophy has been institutionalised into a collection of specific research methods, the implications of the work of phenomenological philosophers is continually contested and debated. This Master Class will explore the different implications of the work of a range of phenomenological philosophers for the conduct of empirical qualitative inquiry. The philosophy of Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Alfred Schutz, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty will be compared and contrasted, and contemporary debates on the implications of their work will be summarized.

PRE-REQUISITES: None required, but a familiarity with any of the philosophers listed in the description will be helpful

Thinking through Bodies, Space and Materiality

Dr Liana Chua (Anthropology)

Despite being overwhelmingly discursive in nature, much of academic research is also highly physical, sensory and spatial: conducting scientific experiments, gathering specimens, building prototypes, undertaking ethnographic fieldwork. Yet such experiences often give way to written products such as books and articles. Drawing on recent development within socio-cultural anthropology, this session asks how we can deal productively with the embodied, material and spatial world; and how we can do analytical work with these elements of our research rather than treating them as mere backdrops to discursive knowledge.

PRE-REQUISITES: None


Metaphors, Myths and Madness: Understanding Semiotics for PhD Research

Dr Simon Weaver (Sociology and Communications)

This Master Class will outline some of the basic elements of semiotic analysis. We will begin with its history, and the contribution of key thinkers such as Ferdinand de Saussure and Roland Barthes. It will then show the usefulness of semiotics for understanding meaning construction in social life, the construction of ideology through myth making, and the construction of alterity or otherness. We will examine the latter through the social languages of ‘madness’. The aim of the session is to provide creative examples that elaborate the relevance of semiotics for many research topics.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

METHODS

Thinking Through Fieldwork
Dr Eric Hirsch (Anthropology)

This Master Class will consider different varieties of fieldwork from classical long-term anthropological fieldwork to fieldwork in families, laboratories, businesses and other organisational settings. Different techniques used in fieldwork will be considered such as interviewing and participant observation. Attention will be given to different kinds of recording that can be used in fieldwork, including note-taking, sound recording and photography, among others. Examples of different types of recording will be examined. The Master Class will also consider the problem of ‘focus’ in fieldwork and how the vast array of empirical material can begin to be transformed into something recognisable as an article, chapter or thesis.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

Historical Research in the Archive
Dr Inge Dornan (Politics and History)

This Master Class will run in conjunction with Brunel Archives and its senior archivists who will share with students practical advice and guidance on how best to approach archival research. We will explore some of the problems and issues that arise from archival work as well as its merits and advantages. It is anticipated that students will be able to use the tools and ideas discussed in this Master Class and apply them to primary source research in archives elsewhere in the UK and overseas.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: None

Text as Data: Quantitative Text Analysis
Dr Martin Ejnar Hansen (Politics and History)

Text is a rich data source for quantitative analysis, yet it is sparingly used by social scientists. In this Master Class, quantitative text analysis will be introduced. The goal in text analysis is to differentiate documents from one another, treating them as collections of words. Various approaches exist to reach this goal. Supervised methods requires the researcher to have, *a priori*, knowledge of the texts, through a training set or some dimensional assumption. Unsupervised methods scale documents on pattern of similarity from a word matrix requiring ex post interpretation of the estimated values. In this Master Class, a broad introduction to the various forms of quantitative text analysis is provided along with examples of their usage on social science issues.

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RECOMMENDED READING: None
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WOLFENDEN  
Wed 15/01/14  2-4pm  
GB202 | Keyword Analysis  
SEALE  
Thurs 16/01/14  10am-12md  
GB210 |
| 18      | 20/01/2014      | Discoverable Research: Metrics and Alternative-Metrics  
SCOBLE  
Wed 22/1/14  10am-12md  
GB210 | Text As Data: Quantitative Text Analysis  
HANSEN  
Thurs 23/01/14  10am-12md  
GB210 |
| 19      | 27/01/2014      | Thinking Through Bodies, Space and Materiality  
CHUA  
Wed 29/01/14  10am-12md  
GB210 | Research Ethics  
MACMILLAN  
Thurs 30/01/14  10am-12md  
GB210 |
| 20      | 03/02/2014      | Metaphors, Myths and Madness: Understanding Semiotics for PhD Research  
WEAVER  
Wed 05/02/14  10am-12md  
GB210 | Visual Methods in the Social Sciences  
MARTIN  
Thurs 6/02/14  10am-1pm  
GB210 |
| 21      | 10/02/2014      | Writing for Publication  
WILLIAMS  
Wed 12/02/14  2-4pm | |
| 22      | 17/02/2014      | Mixing Methods  
GOODWIN  
Wed 19/02/14  10am-12md  
GB210 | Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modelling using AMOS Software  
MARSHALL  
Thurs 20/02/14  10am-1pm  
GB202 |
| 23      | 24/02/2014      | Writing in the Social Sciences  
MCMILLAN  
Wed 26/02/14  2-4pm  
GB239 | Philosophy of the Social Sciences  
WAINWRIGHT  
Thurs 27/02/14  10am-12md  
GB210 |
**Advanced Issues in Quantitative Analysis**

**Dr Stanley O Gaines Jr (Psychology)**

In this Master Class, students will learn about several psychometric analyses for assessing the construct validity (i.e., higher-order versions of principal components analysis, exploratory factor analysis, and multidimensional scaling analysis) of psychological scales. Using actual data regarding the 30-item Relationship Style Questionnaire (RSQ; Griffin & Bartholomew, 1994) and the 36-item Experiences in Close Relationships (ECR) Scale (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998), students will learn how certain analyses (e.g., higher-order multidimensional scaling analysis) can be combined with other analyses (e.g., higher-order exploratory factor analysis) in determining whether a scale measures the construct(s) that the original author(s) sought to measure.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Prior experience with SPSS is highly recommended, but not required.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** Students are strongly encouraged to read the following articles before attending the session:


**Advanced Issues in Survey Design**

**Dr Stanley O Gaines Jr (Psychology)**

In this Master Class, students will learn about the content validity (especially face validity) of published scales. Students will focus specifically on the 30-item Relationship Style Questionnaire (RSQ; Griffin & Bartholomew, 1994), which was designed to measure secure, preoccupied, fearful-avoidant, and dismissing-avoidant attachment styles; and the 36-item Experiences in Close Relationships (ECR) Scale (Brennan, Clark, & Shaver, 1998), which was designed to measure avoidance and anxiety as insecure attachment orientations. Working with the lecturer, students will develop a new, 40-item survey (with 5 items measuring each of 8 lower-order attachment orientations) that is designed to fit a circumplex model of personality.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Attendance at the previous session, Advanced Issues in Quantitative Analysis, is strongly recommended but not required.


**Keyword Analysis**

**Professor Clive Seale** (Sociology and Communications)

This Master Class will show you how to use a computer assisted method for interrogating the meanings contained in large bodies of text, using software developed for ‘corpus linguistics.’ It will be useful to anyone planning to analyse qualitative data, such as interview transcripts or other kinds of document. In particular, I will demonstrate an aspect of the method which I have been using for the comparative analysis of texts (CKA, or Comparative Keyword Analysis). Like any scientific technology, the method is good for some things but not others and I will outline its advantages and disadvantages. You will also discover these for yourself as you encounter the method in the practical element of the session.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** You can visit the web site containing software used for keyword analysis and explore it: www.lexically.net/wordsmith/. Try and read an example of a study that used keyword analysis – suggestions are below.

**READINGS:**

*An outline of the method:*

*Examples of studies using the method:*

**Mixing Methods in the Social Sciences**

**Professor Robin Goodwin** (Psychology)

Research in the social sciences frequently uses just one method e.g. experiments or interviews. However there is increasing recognition – by academic journals, practitioners, and even funding councils – of the advantages of using multiple methods in our work. In this Master Class I discuss some of the pros and cons of using multiple methods, drawing on our own work and that of colleagues to illustrate this. Attendees will then work in ‘mixed methods’ groups to challenge each other as to which other alternative methods they may use in their dissertation work.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

Ethnography as Practice and Product

Dr Andrew Beatty (Anthropology)

The term ‘ethnography’ refers to a research approach and to the written product of ethnographic methods. This Master Class explores the often taken-for-granted relation between the practice and product of ethnography. Pioneered by anthropologists a century ago, ethnographic methods have been absorbed (and changed) by related disciplines and are now used in a variety of modern settings, including schools, industry and online communities. We will look at the ethnographer’s toolkit, the pros and cons of different methods, and the challenges of translating experience into words. The aim of the Master Class is to demystify a powerful research approach and to learn how to make the most of your findings in an accessible way.

PRE-REQUISITES: None


Advanced Qualitative Methods

Professor Steven Wainwright (Sociology and Communications)

This Master Class explores the use of a range of qualitative methods that may be useful, or prove invaluable, in your PhD, and outlines some of the key skills involved in conducting high quality qualitative research. The aim is to raise awareness of the complexity and importance of the following key qualitative research skills:

1. Types of qualitative research
2. Data collection skills
3. Data analysis skills
4. Writing skills
5. Ability to be reflexive
6. Awareness of philosophical debates

PRE-REQUISITES: Some knowledge of qualitative research methods will be assumed. Students who have no previous experience of qualitative research methods would find it beneficial to undertake some basic background reading prior to the workshop by reading some of the qualitative chapters in a key Social Research Methods textbook, for example: Bryman, A. (2012) Social Research Methods. 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Game Theory for Social Scientists

Professor John Bennett (Economics and Finance)

Game theory is the study of multi-person decision problems. In recent years this has become the basic tool of microeconomic theory, but it can be applied across the social sciences, with applications to the study of political negotiation, military conflict, criminal behaviour, plea bargaining, and so on. The workshop will develop the basic concepts with a strong emphasis on worked examples. It will divide into three parts: static games, where the ‘players’ make decisions simultaneously; dynamic games, where decisions are made sequentially (this invites ‘strategic behaviour’); and repeated games.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: Eric Rasmusen, Games and Information, Blackwell. 4th edition 2006 (or earlier editions).
Robert Gibbons, A Primer on Game Theory, Prentice Hall, 1992

Visual Methods in Social Research

Dr Wendy Martin (School of Health Sciences and Social Care)

Exploring the visual is seen as a means to uncover significant insights into how micro processes of daily life are linked to wider socio-cultural discourses; performative aspects of culture often hidden within the everyday; to make visible the mundane and taken-for-granted; to stimulate debate; and to reveal meanings and understandings in context. Whilst the use of visual methods can be experienced as empowering and participatory, the development of visual research has also presented researchers with new complexities and challenges in relation to ethical, theoretical, analytical and methodological issues. The aim of this Master Class is to critically explore the use of visual methods in social research, with a focus on analysing visual images, the use of photography and photo elicitation.

PRE-REQUISITES: Please bring to the workshop two or more visual images within your area of research interest to explore dimensions of the visual and visual analysis, and be prepared to discuss these visual images within the group.
RECOMMENDED READING: None

Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modelling using AMOS Software

Dr Tara Marshall (Psychology)

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and structural equation modelling (SEM) are increasingly used by social scientists to examine the psychometric properties of measurement scales and the associations between underlying variables. In this Master Class, we will learn the basic theory behind CFA and SEM, and use AMOS software to run several models. Specifically, we will interpret the indices of model fit, evaluate model modifications, and learn how to use bootstrapping techniques to test indirect effects. Finally, we will conduct multiple group comparison analysis for both CFA and SEM.

PRE-REQUISITES: Familiarity with multiple regression and exploratory factor analysis; facility with SPSS software
RECOMMENDED READING: None
SKILLS

Grant and Fellowship Applications

Professor Mary Gilhooly (School of Health Sciences and Social Care) and Alicen Nickson (RSDO)

This Master Class provides an introduction to grant writing for PhD students, including an overview of funding bodies and opportunities. It will also consider how researchers can increase their potential for success by understanding the nature of research funding and how to prepare for success. The second part of the Master Class will cover basic grant writing skills, including a review of example grant proposals.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: None

Writing in the Social Sciences: Understanding your Process

Dr Chris McMillan (ASK / Sociology and Communications)

Whilst writing processes can be very unique, the best writers are those who are most familiar with the strategies and practices that are most effective for them. Whether in converting research into ideas or constructing chapter outlines, researchers in the social sciences are often engaged with similar writing practices. In order to best understand these practices, in this session students are encouraged to discuss and share their experiences with a range of elements across the writing process, from initial steps in notemaking and working with research to developing ideas and editing. The session will also discuss techniques for overcoming ‘blockages’, keeping focused and writing drafts whilst introducing effective strategies for advancing and developing your writing.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: Students are encouraged to bring along a piece of writing to discuss and may benefit from reading http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=65691
Statistical Analysis Systems Introductory Course

Dr Russ Moro and Professor Guy Liu (Economics and Finance)

(NB This Master Class is made up of two sessions)

Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS) is probably the most comprehensive software for data management. It is well suited for fast processing of large and extremely large data sets (it has virtually no limitation on the size of data sets) and has many modules with various statistical and econometric routines. For example, regression and discriminant analysis, data base manipulation, matrix computations (similar to Matlab), plotting and graphical representation. SAS is widely used by businesses and universities worldwide as the major economic/business data management software. This Master Class will equip students with the basic skills necessary for extending the scope of the data analysis techniques they have learned, so that they can be incorporated into theses in a fast and convenient way.

PRE-REQUISITES: A module in statistics or econometrics


(Access to the SAS manual is free)

Writing for Publication

Professor Clare Williams (Sociology and Communications)

Are you thinking of submitting a paper for publication? Have you already done so and had it rejected? Would you like to understand more about the role of a journal editor, and how a journal reaches decisions about which articles it publishes? Then this Master Class is for you!

In this session, I will discuss strategies for maximising your chances of having an article accepted. I will also provide an overview of the publication process, from initial submission of an article through to rejection or publication. The workshop draws on my experiences as one of four editors of the leading journal ‘Sociology of Health and Illness’, for the past six years; plus being on the Editorial Boards of various other journals. The workshop is suitable for PhD students from a variety of disciplines, with or without a publication track record. Publishing articles is a key part of an academic career, and it is never too early to start thinking about your publication strategy. The session will also include time for discussion and questions.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED READING: None
Discoverable Research: Metrics and Alternative-Metrics

Dr Rosa Scoble (University REF Manager – Planning and Policy)

The use of metrics, such as citations and journal impact factors, has been in circulation for a long time. However, the move towards a broader interpretation of the ‘impact’ of research combined with the increase in social media activity and sophisticated new web based tools, has seen the rise of a number of alternative article level metrics. Some of these, for example, track the number of tweets and blogs a particular published article attracts. The new world of open access research will see these tools multiply, allowing individual researchers to track the interest of both the academic community and the public. Therefore, it is essential for the ‘modern’ academic to be able to make their research discoverable and accessible. This workshop will increase participants’ awareness of the tools available to them to track public and academic interest in their work.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: None

Social Media for Researchers

Sarah Wolfenden (Subject Librarian - Library)

This practical workshop will show how social media can help you at all stages of your research: from exploration to engagement, from planning to publicising, and much more. The emphasis will be on why social media is relevant to the impact agenda, which tools are most important in the field of research, and how to use them effectively. At the end of the session, PhD researchers will feel confident knowing which tools will work for them professionally, and what to do next.

PRE-REQUISITES: None
RECOMMENDED READING: None