Praxisseminar empirische Sozialforschung

Practicing Empirical Social Research

Bachelor’s Seminar
Fortgeschrittene Veranstaltung (BA)
SOZ-BA-S5; SOZ10-BA-F2; PW-BA-F2

4 SWS

Participants: max 30

Class: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 16:00 ; Seminarhaus - SH 2.108

Learning Goal

The learning goal of this seminar is to provide students with the skills that they require to move seamlessly from theoretical learning conducted in seminars as part of their degree, to conceptualising, carrying out and writing up empirical research. The explicit learning-goal is for students to achieve competence in and knowledge of the practical research process. This comprises identifying a research goal and deriving an appropriate research question, operationalising a data collection plan, followed up by collecting and analysing data and producing a report of the research findings. There will be a particular focus on activity-oriented teaching and learning. Students will act as researchers and employ both the theoretical and methods knowledge that they have gained throughout their studies.

Project

A different project will be worked on each semester, and will be organised and decided on in advance, depending on the requirements of the local stakeholder, agency or institution that is being worked with. Room can be made available for sub-projects, depending on student interests. The extent to which the
projects are pre-organised, however, will be different from semester to semester. A summary of the project being worked on this semester can be found below.

**Prerequisites**

It is a prerequisite that sociology students have completed “Modul 3 / SOZ-BA-GF Grundlagen der empirischen Sozialforschung” or have completed equivalent coursework and/or seminars. For the politics students, the prerequisite is that the seminar to “Einführung in die Methoden empirischer Sozialforschung” has been completed. Note: sociology students studying to old “Studienordnung 2010” should have attended a seminar covering fundamentals of empirical social research.

**Language**

Depending of the preferences and capacities of the participating students the seminar can be carried out in German or English (the course guide, readings and handouts, however, will be provided in English).

**Readings**

To enable an adaption to the needs of the class, which will depend on the methods that we choose, I will set the readings one week in advance. These will be posted on Moodle, password: “Praxis” (case-sensitive).

**Assessment**

The scope of this seminar is 4 SWS (4 hours of contact per week). A Teilnahmeschein provides 6 ECTS/CP, while a Modulabschlussprüfung provides an additional 4 ECTS/CP (for a total of 10 ECTS/CP). Please note that the workload for those completing only Teilnahmeschein is 180 hours, while the workload for those also completing the Modulabschlussprüfung is 300 hours („Ein CP entspricht einem Arbeitsaufwand von 30 Stunden.” See Prüfungsordnung - UniReport Satzungen und Ordnungen vom 17.09.2015, Pg. 10). The expectations for participation and assessment reflect this workload. The required assessment is as follows:

**Teilnahmeschein: 6 ECTS/CP (Workload 180 hours)**

- Regular attendance in class
- Weekly Workbook
- Active participation in the project
- Final presentation

**Regular Attendance in Class**

Regular attendance is a prerequisite for receiving any credit points. Students are allowed to miss up to two classes (20% of 13 classes over the semester), thereafter a doctor’s certificate must be submitted.
Workbook

It is integral that participants do the readings for each session. To support this, participants are expected to keep a “workbook” (also known as a “learning diary”) where they briefly summarize the required reading (5 – 7 sentences outlining the main argument/themes, data, method and findings) and note their thoughts and opinions about each topic. This can be done on loose paper (or in a notebook) or electronically. This should be worked on each week, and submitted at the end of semester. An example will be given in the first week of class. **Criteria:** relevant readings briefly summarized, reflections on what has been discussed in readings, in class or in group work, length.

Active Participation in the Project

Participation in the project is required. This will include travel within Frankfurt, collecting data (for example, participant observation, conducting interviews, focus groups), transcription or data entry, and data analysis. Anyone not fully participating, being unreliable, or letting down their group members will not be offered a Teilnahmeschein.

Final Presentation

All students will be required to give a presentation at the end of semester. The exact form this this presentation will be decided on over the semester.

Modulabschlussprüfung: 4 ECTS/CP (Workload 120 hours)

- Research Project Hausarbeit

Research Project Hausarbeit

A Hausarbeit of 10 - 15 pages based on the research project that we worked on over semester must be submitted. The Hausarbeit should should take the form of an empirical paper or report and should include: Introduction, Literature Review, Research Questions and Aims, Method, Findings, Discussion, Conclusion (followed by a Reference List and any relevant Appendices). More specific expectations will be discussed over the semester, in addition to an example being provided.
**Project, SS2019:**

*Evaluating the Success of the ChancenNutzer Program of the Social Impact Lab Frankfurt*

This semester’s project will be, in cooperation with ChancenNutzer (Social Impact Lab Frankfurt), to conduct *qualitative* evaluations of their inclusive entrepreneurship program. ChancenNutzer offers young adults with a migration background space, qualifications, contact and coaching to help them become self-employed or found their own business. The primary aim of the program is to empower migrants and refugees and help them gain footing in the labour market. The evaluation will be conducted using qualitative methods (for example, participant observation, interviews, or focus groups). The goal is to provide ChancenNutzer with valuable information on what their participants gain by taking part in their program. The Project Lead of ChancenNutzer will attend class on the 24.04 to give a guest lecture on the program and research requirements. See also: https://chancennutzer.eu/

**Summary provided by ChancenNutzer:**

Über das Programm „ChancenNutzer“ des Social Impact Labs Frankfurt


**Zeitrahmen:**

Die Studierenden können auf Anfrage einen Observations- und Interviewtermin vereinbaren.

Sofern die Datensammlung zwischen Mai und Ende Juni erfolgt, sind die Studierenden willkommen, in diesem Zeitrahmen die Termine zu vereinbaren. Die Studierenden haben folgende Möglichkeiten:

**Observationsräume**

- Co-Working-Space des Social Impact Lab Frankfurt, jederzeit zwischen 10 und 18 Uhr
- Begleitung bei individuellen Coachings idealerweise dienstags und mittwochs nach Vereinbarung mit dem Coach
- Begleitung der Gruppencoachings (Termine folgen)
- Begleitung in Experten-Workshops (Termine folgen)

**Interviews**

- mit den Startups
Seminar Plan:
-- Note this plan is preliminary, and depending on how the research goes, may change over the semester --

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weeks Covered</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17.04.2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>The seminar will be introduced, including an outline of the project to be completed this semester, a discussion of the expectations and assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24.04.2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Time Plan</td>
<td>As a group, we will set the time plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Lecture:</td>
<td>local stakeholder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>01.05.2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>No class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>08.05.2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Research Goals/Aims</td>
<td>The main research questions will be conceptualised and discussed. This will include specific literature review tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 6</td>
<td>15.05.2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Method</td>
<td>The methods that will be used to collect and analyse the data will be decided on and discussed (including a practice session).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>29.05.2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>Data will be collected over two weeks. All appointments and materials required for this will be organised in advance. We will meet in class to discuss any issues or questions students might have.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 12</td>
<td>19.06.2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Three sessions will be devoted to analysing the data, which will be done both as a class and also in small groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.07.2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Report Writing</td>
<td>This session will focus on the important elements of writing up scientific research findings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>17.07.2019</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mini-Conference</td>
<td>In the last session we will hold a ‘mini-conference’ where students, in groups, will report on their research findings. Other interested parties will be invited to attend (this will include the local stakeholder and other students or interested parties).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outline

-- A complete outline, including readings for each topic, will provided in the first class. --