Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Social Research Methods - 5 Credit Modules

By engaging in CPD, you can develop essential professional skills, keep your knowledge up to date and enhance your career development. We offer short 5 credit specialised methods and training modules in social sciences that enable you to study alongside work and gain credits which can be used to gain a Professional Award (30 Credits), Professional Certificate (60 credits), Professional Diploma (120 credits) or build towards an MA in Social Research Methods. (180 credits).

Using Foucault's Methods (SOCI515)

This guides students through the key points, concerns and issues raised by Michel Foucault's methods and theory. Covering his key texts we address Foucault's method as an important device for studying power and society. In so doing the module seeks to engage students with the uses of Foucault's method for social science research and social inquiry.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** The University of Liverpool **Instructor:** Dr Nicole Vitellone

Focus Groups (SOCI516)

This module will help postgraduate students and research staff to design, plan and carry out focus group discussions, and will cover both the theory, ethics and practice of focus group research. Using case studies to illustrate the application of focus groups to research particular issues, students will gain understandings of the theory, practicalities and ethics of using this method to elicit data, and how to prepare and analyse these data. This module consists of a series of 4 workshops, each two hours long, to be held on consecutive weeks, which will combine lectures and discussions with practical exercises within the group as well as discussions about the wider literature.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** University of Liverpool **Instructor:** Prof Jude Robinson

Critical Discourse Analysis (SOCI517)

This module is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Students are introduced to a critical understanding of discourse, which in turn encourages the analysis of language use in relation to questions of power in society. The module seeks to enable students' engagement in such analyses, introducing them to appropriate methods and techniques, and providing them the opportunity to put these into practice.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** University of Liverpool **Instructors:** Dr Andrew Kirton

Visual Data, Visual Analysis (SOCI518)

This short course is aimed at postgraduate and academic researchers who would like to learn more about sociological approaches to visual analysis. In particular, the module addresses some of the recurrent ways in which cities have been represented visually, and is so interested in how images of urban contexts are generated and disseminated. Paying specific attention to the work of i) photographers and ii) architects against this backdrop, the module is organised around preparatory reading of classic and contemporary research contributions, which will include discussion of how to identify analytically-relevant urban visual data, and a walking tour or Liverpool City Centre, addressed towards visual representations in situ. Assessment on the module is via a short research presentation, which is to be based on interrogation of visual data with reference to a technique of analysis specified within the module.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** University of Liverpool **Instructor:** Dr Paul Jones

Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (SOCI519)

This two-day short-course is aimed at postgraduate and academic researchers interested in ethnomethodology and ethnomethodological conversation analysis. Focusing on ethnomethodological and conversation analytic approaches to the study of language, interaction and social practices, in practical terms it will cover (1) key works and ideas in both fields, (2) how to identify analytically interesting audio and video data, (3) how to work up audio and video data in and through the transcription process and (4) how to 'build' analyses of data individually and in collaboration with others.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** University of Liverpool **Instructors:** Dr Michael Mair, Dr Philip Brooker and Dr Chris Elsey

Participatory Action Research (SOCI520)

This workshop is aimed at postgraduate and academic researchers interested in conducting a PAR with an identified collaborative community partner. There will opportunities for ‘shared conversations’ on issues involved in planning and conducting a PAR and consideration of: (1) theoretical perspectives that inform a PAR approach, (2) appropriate methods and activities for a PAR approach, (3) ethical considerations related to a PAR approach.

**Date:** tbc **Location:** University of Liverpool **Instructor:** Dr Louise Hardwick
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Ethnographic Studies of Science and Technology (SOCI521)
This two-day short course is aimed at the postgraduate researcher interested in social science approaches and studies of medicine, science and technology. Drawing from ethnographic research in anthropology and sociology, we focus on foundational ethnographic texts in this field, theoretical and analytical concerns and arguments, and the integrated character of methods, analysis and writing in ethnographic inquiry.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructors: Dr Ciara Kierans and Dr Jessie Cooper

Narrative Interviewing (SOCI524)
This two-day short course prepares the postgraduate researcher for work with narrative. Covering key contributions to this form of inquiry, the course will introduce the theoretical and analytical principles of narrative research; help build technical skills for conducting, transcribing and analysing narrative inter-views and explore the contributions and limitations of the use of narrative inquiry in social science research.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructors: Dr Ciara Kierans and Dr Jessie Cooper

Interviewing (SOCI526)
This module is suitable for postgraduate students and research staff from all disciplines who require a period of additional supported study and reflection before they design and conduct their own research. Drawing on the rich sociological literature, students will be introduced to theories of why and when to use interviews and have the opportunity to develop research questions and learn how to conduct interviews as well as how to approach the preparation, analysis and writing up of data. The module is delivered over 3 workshops, each lasting for 3 hours, which will combine some lecture material, with discussions of the literature and issues, and practical exercises on conducting interviews and data analysis.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructor: Prof Jude Robinson

Doing Ethical Research (SOCI527) *
This ethics training workshop allows you to discuss and share good ethical practice and the complexity of considerations that both arise at the formal stage of ethical review (process) and in the field (practice). The syllabus for the module contains two elements (i) The theoretical and regulatory principles underpinning the process for formal ethical review (ii) The practice of research ethics when working with ‘vulnerable’ groups or ‘sensitive’ issues (the ethics of care).

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructor: Prof Jude Robinson

Researching Private Companies (SOCI529) *
The key aim of this module is to develop a range of skills to help students understand and analyse: the legal, social and economic basis of corporate power; how corporate structures and finances work. This module will develop an advanced set of skills using a range of hands-on techniques and tools that are used both in the academic world and in the policy/NGO world to analyse private companies and their social impact.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructor: Prof David Whyte

Using Freedom of Information Requests in Research (SOCI532) *
The aim of this module is to provide students with an advanced understanding of the uses and applications of data obtained by Freedom of Information requests, and to develop an ability to analyse, write up and disseminate data obtained in this way.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructor: Prof David Whyte

Observation (SOCI533) *
This module will introduce students to observation and help them explore how they may draw on observational methods in their own research. This module will be delivered over two four hour workshops.

Date: tbc 
Location: University of Liverpool
Instructor: Prof Jude Robinson

* Modules awaiting approval

Fees: £150 per 5 credit module
Awards available: Postgraduate Award (30 Credits), Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits), Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits) or MA in Social Research Methods (180 credits).

For more information and to register: www.liverpool.ac.uk/engage/events