

**ATA 688**  
**QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**  
**Spring 2026**

Monday 678, ATA Seminar Room  
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Office hours: By appointment

This course introduces students to basic issues in qualitative research. It is designed to help and guide students in their qualitative studies on modern Turkey with a particular focus on the ethnographic perspective. ATA Graduate students at different levels of study may benefit from the course in 1) developing a thesis proposal and conducting a pilot field research, 2) developing a theoretically sophisticated, extensive dissertation proposal, and 3) analyzing and writing up data (in the form of ethnographic texts) gathered from thesis/dissertation field research

We will begin by reading about the intricacies of developing research topics/questions/proposals and proceed with discussing the dynamics of both the research and the analysis process. Basing ourselves on the course readings and in-class discussions, we will explore research epistemology, fundamental issues in ethnographic research, and learn about basic ethnographic methods used in field research.

Most importantly, given that qualitative research is conceptualized by many as a craft with emphasis on *practice*, this course is intended to be a practical course where each student will undertake their own original research and analysis/writing and present their progress in class and in a written report. Hence, only students interested in undertaking original field research should enroll in the course.

Throughout the course, students will design, carry out, and present their own ethnographic research. In addition to written assignments and class presentations, the feedback provided on fellow participants' research will form a major component of the course.

**List of Research Assignments**

- Formulate a research project, submit a research proposal and present your proposal in class
- Preparation for field research: literature review, document analysis etc.
  
- Establish initial contact with your subjects and start to make research arrangements
- Field exercise: Participant Observation
  - In-Class Presentations and Discussions on the field exercise
- Field exercise: Conduct interviews
  - In-Class Presentations and Discussion on Interviews
  
- Analysis of Data
  - In-class presentation of preliminary analysis and discussion of ideas for the final paper
  
- Final Paper

### **Selected Books:**

Martin Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. 2007. *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Routledge.

Karen O'Reilly. 2005. *Ethnographic Methods*. Routledge.

Jennifer Mason. 2002. *Qualitative Researching*. Sage Publications.

Kirin Narayan. 2012. *Alive in the Writing. Crafting Ethnography in the Company of Chekhov*. University of Chicago Press.

Kristen Ghodsee. 2016. *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies that everyone can read*. The University of Chicago Press.

R.Harmanşah ve Z.N. Nahya (der). 2016. *Etnografik Hikayeler. Türkiye'de Alan Araştırması Deneyimleri*. Metis.

### **Other Sources on Research Proposal Writing and Qualitative Research**

Social Science Research Council. "On the Art of Writing Proposals".

<https://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/7A9CB4F4-815F-DE11-BD80-001CC477EC70/>

Middle East Research Competition. "Writing a Research Proposal."

Sydel Silverman. 1991. "Writing Grant Proposals for Anthropological Research." *Current Anthropology* 32 (4).

American Anthropological Association website on Anthropological Research Methods

<http://www.americananthro.org/LearnAndTeach/ResourceDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=1465&navItemNumber=733>

Saka, Erkan. 2021. "Dijital Etnografi Literatürüne bir Bakış." *Strata-İlişkisel Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*.[https://www.academia.edu/65934123/Dijital\\_Etnografi\\_Literat%C3%BCr%C3%BCne\\_Bir\\_Bak%C4%B1%C5%9F](https://www.academia.edu/65934123/Dijital_Etnografi_Literat%C3%BCr%C3%BCne_Bir_Bak%C4%B1%C5%9F)

## Tentative Course Outline

### **I- Introduction: Ethnography and Research Design**

Kristen Ghodsee. 2016. *From Notes to Narrative*. (Selection)

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "What is Ethnography." Pp: 1-20.

M. Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. "Research Design." Pp: 20-41

Karen O'Reily. "Intro to Ethnographic Methods," "Where to Begin."

Jennifer Mason. "Planning and Designing Qualitative Research."

### **II- Field Relations, Ethics and the Role of the Researcher**

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "Access" and "Field Relations." Pp: 41-97.

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "Ethics." Pp: 209-230

Kirin Narayan. 1993. "How native is a "native" anthropologist?" *American Anthropologist* 95 (3)

### **III- Preparing for Fieldwork: Working with Documents**

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "Documents and Other Artefacts, Real and Virtual." Pp: 121-140

Karen O Reilly. "Visual Data and Other Things." Pp: 157-175.

Jennifer Mason. "Generating Qualitative Data: Observation, Documents and Visual Data"

#### **IV- Participant Observation and Fieldnotes**

Karen O'Reily. "Participating and Observing."

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "Recording and Organizing Data." Pp: 140-158.

#### **V- Interviewing**

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "Oral Accounts and the Role of Interviewing." Pp: 97-121.

Karen O'Reilly. "Interviews" and "Practical Issues in Interviewing" Pp: 112-157.

H. Russell Bernard. 2000. "Unstructured and Semistructured Interviewing." In *Social Research Methods*. Sage Publications.

James Spradley. 1979. "Locating the Informant" and "Asking Descriptive Questions." In *The Ethnographic Interview*. Pp: 45-55; 78-92.

John Lofland and Lyn Lofland. 1984. "Data Logging in Intensive Interviewing." Pp: 53-62.

***\*Class Discussion: Bring to class a list of your interview questions for discussion***

#### **VI- Analysis and Writing**

M. Hammersley and P. Atkinson. "The Process of Analysis"

Karen O'Reilly. "Ethnographic Analysis: from writing down to writing up"

Jennifer Mason. "Producing Analyses and Explanations which are Convincing"

\*Roger Sanjek. 1990. "On Ethnographic Validity" in *Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology*.

\*Rena Lederman. "Pretexts for Ethnography: On Reading Fieldnotes" in *Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology*.