

**ATA 68D**  
**Qualitative Research, Analysis and Writing**

**Fall 2024**

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Monday 678, ATA Seminar Room

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Office hours: By appointment

This course introduces students to basic issues in qualitative research, analysis and writing. It is designed to help and guide students in their qualitative studies on modern Turkey with a particular (but not exclusive) 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, 3) analyzing and writing up data (in the form of ethnographic texts) gathered from thesis/dissertation field research or 4) preparing an article draft that builds on their thesis for publication.

In the course, we will take all three steps and components of qualitative study- *research, analysis and writing*- into consideration by reading and discussing excerpts from the assigned texts. 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 analyzing/writing process.

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

Students are expected to 1) attend class and actively participate in the discussion, 2) weekly report on their progress on their project for the course, 3) present in class a deconstructive analysis of a qualitative study (article, book) related to their own research topic\* and 4) and at the end of the semester, submit a final text that fits their level of study such as a research paper, a proposal, a research thesis chapter or an article manuscript.

\*For this assignment, students are expected to choose one study on Turkey related to their research topic. In addition, a qualitative study conducted outside Turkey but relevant to the student's research topic or theoretical framework may also be used.

The detailed, weekly plan of the course will be determined in relation to the levels and research projects of students who enroll in the course. The course will draw on the following reading list.

## **Readings:**

### **Books:**

- Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- Howard Becker. 2007. *Writing for the Social Sciences*. Chicago University Press.
- Jennifer Mason. 2002. *Qualitative Researching*. Sage Publications.
- Harry F. Wolcott. 2001. *Writing Up Qualitative Research*. Sage Publications.
- H. Russell Bernard. 2000. *Social Research Methods*. Sage Publications.
- H. Russell Bernard and C. 2000. *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*.
- Martin Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. 2007. *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Routledge.
- Karen O'Reilly. 2005. *Ethnographic Methods*. Routledge.
- Kristen Ghodsee. 2016. *From Notes to Narrative: Writing Ethnographies that everyone can read*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Kirin Narayan. 2012. *Alive in the Writing. Crafting Ethnography in the Company of Chekhov*. University of Chicago Press.
- Shan-Estelle Brown. 2016. *Writing in Anthropology: A brief Guide*. New York: oxford University Press.

## **Additional Sources:**

### **Proposal Writing:**

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>

## **On Writing and Publishing:**

Niko Besnier and P. Morales. 2018. "Tell the Story: How to Write for American Ethnologist." *American Ethnologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.12629>.

"Political and Legal Anthropology Review Author Submission Guidelines."  
<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/15552934/about/author-guidelines>

Tom Boellstorff. 2008. "How to get an Article Accepted at American Anthropologist (or Anywhere)." *American Anthropologist* 112 (3): 353-56.

Martin Holbraad. N.d. "What I look for in an Article: Advice to Authors hoping to Publish an article in *Social Analysis*."

Susanne Unger. 2017. "Things I've Learned from Working at CSSH, or How to interact with a Top-Tier Academic Journal." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, April 15, 2017.

Neha Vora and T. Boellstorff. "Anatomy of an Article: The Peer-Review Process as a Method." *American Anthropologist*. 114 (4): 578-583.

Bryan Garner. 2016. *Garner's Modern English Usage*. Oxford University Press.

Joseph William. 1990. *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*. Chicago University Press.