**Training Program**

**Critical Research methodologies in Social Sciences**

**By: Dr. Amal Nazzal**

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|  | **Theme 1: Introduction to Critical Social Sciences** | | | |
| **18-7-2020**  **12:00 - 4:00** | **First Meeting: 4 hours** | | | |
|  | **Topic** | **Description** | **Methods** | **Tasks/assignments** |
|  | Social Sciences Research, What for? | Why do we need SSR[[1]](#footnote-1)? Rationale of SSR research, for what purposes? | -Brainstorming and discussion  -Examples and visuals [[2]](#footnote-2) | -Participants will be asked in advance to search and prepare for a SSR which they found interesting to share in class. |
|  | Ontological and Epistemological Perspectives of SSR. | How do we define knowledge? who produces knowledge, and how SSR produces/reproduces knowledge? | -Participants will be divided into small groups of three for discussions.  -Brainstorming and group discussions  -Examples and visuals | -An example of a conducted research will be given to the participants in advance, to explore how this particular SSR has been engaged in producing/reproducing different meanings and/or realities, and how they can critique it from different perspectives. |
| **19-7-2020**  **12:00-4:00** | **Second Meeting: 4 hours** | | |
|  | What is Criticality? | -Introduction to critical thinking/different critical perspectives in SSR.  -Critics to dominate narratives.  -Power and political engagement. | -Brainstorming and group discussions. |
|  | Positionality and Reflexivity | -What is the researcher positionality (gender, race, ethnicity, language, cultural capital, etc).  -How the research can reflect upon her/his structural personal biases? | -Individual participation and reflections | -Participants will be asked to try and acknowledge their personal structural biases, and if they can reflect upon them while producing knowledge/research. |
|  | **Theme 2: Knowledge and Research Production in Times of Conflict** | | | |
| **25-7-2020**  **12:00-3:00** | **Third Meeting: 3 hours** | | | |
|  | Research in Times of Conflict | What does it mean to produce research in time of conflict? and what are the different concerns/obstacles, and set-of mind which should be adopted? | -Discussion and reflections upon the given assignments. | -A study will be given to the participants in advance that ignores the colonized context in occupied Palestine, and the different political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions. The aim is to critically evaluate this acadmeic work, and figure out its harm and superficiality in knowledge production within the Israeli colonization and occupation. |
| **8-8-2020** | **Fourth Meeting: Dr. Raed Eshnaiwer: 3 hours** | | | |
|  | Guest Lecture:  Social Science research on the topic of refugees and forced migration | A critical view on knowledge production related to the issues of refugees and forced migration in which many social, economic and political factors overlap.  -Other issues in preparing research agendas on these topics and their relevance to different colonial contexts. |  | -Agenda of the lecture will be given to the participants in advance.  -Ask participants to prepare some questions/thoughts/reflections to be discussed with the guest lecturer. |
| **9-8-2020**  **12:00-3:00** | **Fifth Meeting: Dr. Sbeih Sbeih: 4 hours** | | | |
|  | Guest Lecture:  A critical eye in research: development and civil society as an example | -Critical revision of development in the colonized context.  -Critical discussion in academia production and power of knowledge production. |  | Agenda of the lecture will be given to the participants in advance.  -Ask participants to prepare some questions/thoughts/reflections to be discussed with the guest lecturer. |
|  | **Theme Three: Qualitative Methodological Methods** | | | |
| **15-8-2020**  **12:00-3:00** | **Sixth Meeting: 3 hours** | | | |
|  | Methodological Methods and Instruments | -What are the research processes? and what do we meet by systematic scientific research method?  -How do we formulate a research question?  How to conduct qualitative interviews? focus group? or observational research?  -How do we prepare yourselves to investigate the field? How did we get prepared? | -Discussion and reflections upon the given assignments. | Participants will be given a social science master thesis to be evaluated. |
|  | Digital Ethnography: Exploring social media qualitatively. | What do you mean by digital ethnography/or netnography? how can we critiaclly conduct it as a methodological tool? And to what extent does social media content produce/reproduce knowledge? | -Discussion and reflections upon the given assignments. | Option 1: some of the participants will be given a debatable Facebook group account to explore and discuss its issues in class.  Option 2: the rest of the participants will be given a trendy hashtag on twitter that discusses some issues in relation to the Syrian refugees. |
| **16-8-2020**  **12:00-3:00** | **Seventh Meeting: 3 hours** | | | |
|  | Analyzing Data | How can we analyze the data and read it critically?  -What do we mean by thematic analysis? codes and categories? Gioia methodology[[3]](#footnote-3) of presenting qualitative data | -Discussion and presentation of the data analysis | -An example of 5 pages written transcript of some conducted qualitative interviews will be given to the participants to try analyzing the data thematically. |
|  | Research Ethics | How do we apply ethical principles and critical thinking in the evaluation of qualitative research. | General discussion |  |
|  | **Theme Four: Deliverables** | | | |
| **22-8-2020**  **12:00-3:00** | **Eighth Meeting: 5 hours** | | | |
|  | Group Presentation | Each group will submit and present a SSR plan which includes an abstract, methodology, their critical approach/philosophy, instruments used, data analysis (on a small scale). | Group Presentations | The rest of the participants will be given an ‘evaluation format[[4]](#footnote-4)’ to critically evaluate each presented research |
|  | **End of the Workshop** | | | |

1. SSR: Social Science Research [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Participants will be invited to join a Facebook private page at the first beginning of the workshop to share different/related material, researches, articles, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Gioia, D A, Corley K G and Hamilton A L (2013). Seeking Qualitative Rigor in Inductive Research: Notes on the Gioia Methodology, Organizational Research Methods 16(1): 15–31. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This evaluation format includes different evaluation points to allow the participants to evaluate each other's work. It will also allow them to critique the methodology of studying/researching a particular topic, and write down their thoughts about their peers’ work. At the end of the workshop, all evaluation formats will be shared to the group members to learn from their peers in a more collaborative way. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)