

Dr. Jeanne Hersant-Menares and Dr. Emmanuel Bourbouhakis (Postdocs at the GRK “Friends, Patrons, Clients”)

Workshop
"Writing and Methodologies in the Humanities and Social Sciences"
WS 2009-10

Tuesday, December 1st, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Seminarraum der IGA, Erbprinzenstr. 12, 4. Stock
Tuesday 03/11/09, 15/12/09, 12/01/10, 09/02/10
Breisacher Tor, Rempartstr., R 206, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The aim of this workshop is to offer **doctoral students from all disciplines** in the humanities and social sciences a forum to discuss the application of specific scholarly ideas and methods in dissertation writing. We meet once a month to discuss a particular work (either an article or book chapter) which illustrates the use of a significant concept or methodological approach. The guiding principle of the workshop is to help bridge the gap between theoretical approaches and methods and the actual writing of dissertations. As such, we kicked off the series with a discussion of Howard Becker's *Writing for Social Scientists*, a popular guide to some practical questions of dissertation writing in the social sciences.

The meetings are also dedicated to questions of interdisciplinarity. An idea much in vogue, interdisciplinary research has come to mean different things to different people. Our aim is to encourage a discussion of the epistemological basis for interdisciplinary work, as well as the possible limits to such work. We approach these questions by considering whether and how ideas and methods in one discipline may be profitably transferred to another. The forthcoming session of the Winter semester will look at questions of variations in the scale of study and analysis in various fields.

Beginning in June, 2009 and over the course of the 2009-2010 academic calendar, we aim to pursue these and other topics in workshops dedicated to a variety of issues faced by doctoral students, such as research materials (ethnographic studies, historical archives, etc.). We welcome proposals from prospective participants for future sessions.

The workshop is open to all members of the Freiburg University community, even as it addresses itself primarily to Ph.D. candidates and their questions and methodological challenges in the course of writing a dissertation. Participants will be expected to have done the common readings, which will be chosen with consideration for people's already considerable workload. The principal language of the workshop will be English, though we expect to help each other out with communication between German and English.

Participants are requested to contact the organizers by email; they will receive the texts by email approximately two weeks before each session.

For information and to sign up:
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SoSe 2009:

Tuesday, June 30: “Writing the humanities and social sciences”

Reading: Howard Becker, *Writing for social scientists. How to start and finish your thesis, book or article*, The University of Chicago Press, 1986

Monday, July 20: “The interdisciplinary use of concepts: Paul Veyne’s *évergétisme* in political sociology”

Reading: Paul Veyne, *Brot und Spiele. gesellschaftliche Macht und politische Herrschaft in der Antike*, 1994

WS 2009-10

Tuesday, November 3: cancelled

Tuesday, December 1: “Personal ties (friendship, kinship, clientage) shaping networks”

Guest: Dr. Ariane Boltanski, maître de conférences en histoire moderne, Université Rennes 2

Reading: John F. Padgett, Christopher Ansell, « Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434 », *American Journal of Sociology*, t. 98, 1993, p. 1259-1319

Tuesday, December 15: “The historical study of gender”

Reading: Nancy F. Partner, “No Sex, No Gender”, *Speculum*, Vol. 68, No. 2 (Apr., 1993), 419-443.

Tuesday, January 12: “Literature as history?”

Reading: Meir Sternberg, “Literary Text, Literary Approach: Getting the Questions Straight” in *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*, Indiana University Press, 1985.

Tuesday, February 9: “The study of informal politics”

Guest: Prof. Jean-Louis Briquet, Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, Sciences Po Paris

Reading : Jean-Louis Briquet, « Politics in the Village. Voting and Electoral Mobilization in Rural Corsica » in R. Bertrand, J-L Briquet & P. Pels (eds) *Cultures of Voting. Essays on Historical Ethnology of the Secret Ballot*, London, Hurst, 2006, p. 142-155

SoSe 2010 (to be completed):

“Micro-history and *jeux d’échelles*”

Reading: Carlo Ginzburg, *Der Käse und die Würmer: die Welt eines Müllers um 1600*, Berlin, Wagenbach, 1993.