

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"

Tuesday, June 30, Seminarraum der IGA, Erbprinzenstr. 12, 4. Stock
Monday, July 20, N.N.
Time: 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 propose to 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 will kick 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 opening round of meetings will be 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 will approach these questions by considering whether and how ideas and methods in one discipline may be profitably transferred to another. A subsequent session 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.

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

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

Thursday, July 7: “The interdisciplinary use of concepts: Paul Veyne's *évergétisme* in political sociology”

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

For information and to sign up:

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