## Advanced Methods of Interpretation in Cultural Sociology

Title	Lecture (soc 575)	Seminar (soc 575a)
Course description	The lecture gives the students an overview over theories, methods and techniques of interpretation important for qualitative social research and cultural sociology. The first half deals with the fundamentals of interpretation, whereas the second half is devoted to different areas of research and specific methodological instruments. The lecture concludes with a written test, which consists of a question-and-answer part as well as an interpretation exercise as practical part.	The bi-weekly seminar accompanies the lecture with additional readings and interpretation exercises. Students should bring empirical material for discussion and interpretation from their own research projects. If there is no student material for a session, we will discuss fundamental texts and case studies instead. At the end of the course, students have to work on and submit an interpretation essay as final paper, either as individual or team work.
Course objectives	Upon successful completion of the course students should have a broad knowledge in methodology and methods of interpretation used in cultural sociology and related fields. Students should be able to deliver sociological interpretations of images and texts, including interviews and media discourses.	Upon successful completion of the seminar students should have a broader knowledge and deeper understanding of methods of interpretation in cultural sociology and related fields. Furthermore, students will have gathered practical experiences with the interpretation of images and texts, which is important with regard to future qualitative research projects (such as the MA thesis).
	Regular attendance and written test based on the lecture and the obligatory readings.	Registration and attendance of the lecture (soc 775), participation in class and the submission of a successful final paper.
Assessment Methods	<ol> <li>Written test (90%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F</li> <li>Participation in the lecture, for example trough comments and questions (10%)</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Participation in class (40%)</li> <li>Interpretation essay (60%)</li> </ol>
ECTS points	10	5



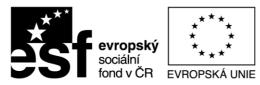








I	What is Interpretation? (21.2)	
Required Readings	Geertz, Clifford (2006): "Thick Description: Towards an Interpretative Theory of Culture". In: The Interpretation of Cultures. Selected Essays. New York: Basic Books, 3-30.	
	Reed, Isaac (2011): "Knowledge". In: Interpretation and Social Knowledge. the Human Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 15-38.	On the Use of Theory in
Additional Readings	Eco, Umberto: (1992): Interpretation and Overinterpretation. Cambridge Press.	: Cambridge University
	Philosophical Papers 2 ss, 15-57.	
	ve Sociology. Berkeley:	
II	On Methodology (28.2)	Seminar (29.2)
Required Readings	Thornberg, Robert & Kathy Charmaz (2014): "Grounded Theory and Theoretical Coding". In: Flick, Uwe (ed.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 153-169.	Interpretation session with student material.
	Timmermans, Stefan & Iddo Tavory (2012): "Theory Construction in Qualitative Research from Grounded Theory to Abductive Analysis". In: Sociological Theory 30(3), 167-186.	
Additional Readings		
	Peirce, Charles Sanders (1998): "Pragmatism as the Logic of Abduction". In: <i>The Essential Peirce Selected Philosophical Writings (1893 - 1913)</i> . Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 226-241.	
	Weber, Max (1949): "'Objectivity' in Social Sciences and Social Policy". In: <i>Th Sciences</i> . Glencoe: Free Press, 49-112.	ne Methodology of Social
III	Understanding: Phenomenological Hermeneutics (7.3) / C. Szaló	
Required	Ricoeur, Paul (2007): "The Task of Hermeneutics". In: <i>From Text to Action. II</i> . Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 53-74.	Essays in Hermeneutics
Readings	Soeffner, Hans-Georg (2004): "Social Scientific Hermeneutics". In: Steinke, I Uwe Flick (eds.): <i>A Companion to Qualitative Research</i> . London: Sage, 95-10	











Additional Readings	Palmer, Richard E. 1973. "Phenomenology as Foundation for a Post-Modern Philosophy of Literary Interpretation." <i>Cultural Hermeneutics</i> 1 (1):207–223.		
	Dilthey, Wilhelm (1990): "The Human Studies". In: Jeffrey C. Alexander & Steven Seidman (eds.): Culture and Society. Contemporary Debates. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 31-38.		
	Gadamer, Hans-Georg (2006): Truth and Method. New York: Continuum.		
Case Weber, Max (2001): The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. London, New Yor			
Studies	Geertz, Clifford (2006): "Deep Play. Notes on the Balinese Cockfight". In: <i>The Interpretation of Cultures. Selected Essays</i> . New York: Basic Books, 412-453.		
	Puritan Persecution of		
	Soeffner, Hans-Georg (1997): "Style and Stylization. Punk, or the Superelevation of Everyday Life". In: <i>The Order of Rituals. The Interpretation of Everyday Life</i> . New Brunswick; London: Transaction Publishers, 49-69.		
IV	Communicative Constructivism and Video Analysis (14.3) / with H. Knoblauch	Seminar (15.3) / with D. Bartmanski	
Required Readings	Hubert, Knoblauch (2016): "Communicative Constructivism and the Communication Society". In: Hatas, Elzbieta & Risto Heiskala (eds.): <i>Life-World, Intersubjectivity and Culture</i> . Frankfurt/Main: Peter Lang, 185-199. Knoblauch, Hubert, René Tuma & Bernt Schnettler (2014): "Video Analysis and Videography". In: Flick, Uwe (ed.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 435-459.	Bartmanski, Dominik & Ian Woodward (2015): Vinyl. The Analogue Record in the Digital Age. London: Bloomsbury.	
Additional Readings	, , ,		
	Knoblauch, Hubert, Bernt Schnettler, Jürgen Raab & Hans-Georg Soeffner <i>Methodology and Methods. Qualitative Audiovisual Data Analysis in Soc</i> Peter Lang.		
	Knoblauch, Hubert (2018): "From the Social to the Communicative Cons Pfadenhauer, Michaela & Hubert Knoblauch (eds.): Social Constructivism a of The Social Construction of Reality. London; New York: Routledge, 275-29	s Paradigm? The Legacy	
	Berger, Peter L. & Thomas Luckmann (1987): <i>The Social Construction of F Sociology of Knowledge</i> . Harmondsworth: Penguin.	Reality. A Treatise in the	











V	Critical Hermeneutics (21.3) / C. Szaló		
Required Readings	Ricoeur, Paul (2007): "Hermeneutics and the Critique of Ideology" In: From Text to Action. Ess Hermeneutics II. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 270-307.		
	Reed, Isaac (2011): "Utopia". In: Interpretation and Social Knowledge. On Human Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 67-88.	the Use of Theory in the	
Additional Readings	Habermas, Jürgen (1989): The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society. Cambridge: MIT Press.		
	Ricoeur, Paul (1970): Freud and Philosophy. An Essay on Interpretation. New Haven: Yale University Press, 20-36.		
	Ricoeur, Paul (1973): "The Model of the Text. Meaningful Action Considered as a Text". In: New Literary History 5(1), 91-117.		
VI	Structuralism and Poststructuralism (28.3)	Seminar (29.3)	
Required Readings	Saussure, Ferdinand de (2011): <i>Course in General Linguistics.</i> New York: Columbia University Press, 111-122.	Interpretation session with student material.	
	Hawkes, Terence (2003): <i>Structuralism and Semiotics</i> . London; New York: Routledge. 1-43.		
Additional Readings	Lévi-Strauss, Claude (1974): "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology". In: Structural Anthropology. New York: Basic Books, 31-51.		
ı	Frank, Manfred (1989): What is Neostructuralism? Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.		
	Derrida, Jacques (2002): "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Writing and Difference. London; New York: Routledge, 351-370.	ne Human Sciences". In:	
Case	Lévi-Strauss, Claude (1971): <i>The Elementary Structures of Kinship</i> . Boston: Beacon Press.		
Studies	Lévi-Strauss, Claude (1961): <i>Tristes Tropiques</i> . New York: Kriterion, 160-180.		
	Barthes, Roland (1990): The Fashion System. Berkeley: University of California.		
	Barthes, Roland (1991): Mythologies. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.		
	Smith, Philip (1991): "Codes and Conflict. Toward a Theory of War as a Ritua	l". In: Theory and Society	

### **Reading Week**



20(1), 103-138.









VII	Structural Hermeneutics I (9.4)	Seminar (12.4)	
Required Readings	Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2003): "The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology. Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics". In: <i>The Meanings of Social Life. A Cultural Sociology</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, 11-26.	Interpretation session with student material.	
	Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2003): "The Discourse of American Civil Society". In: Alexander, Jeffrey C. (ed.), <i>The Meanings of Social Life. A Cultural Sociology</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 121-154.		
	Mannheim, Karl (1968): "On the Interpretation of 'Weltanschauung'" [excerpt]. In: <i>Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . London: Routledge, 43-63.		
	Bohnsack, Rainer (2014): "Documentary Method". In: Flick, Uwe (ed.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 217-233.		
	Wernet, Andreas (2014): "Objective Hermeneutics". In: Flick, Uwe (ed.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 234-246.		
Additional Readings	Emirbayer, Mustafa (2004): "The Alexander School of Cultural Sociology". In: <i>Thesis Eleven</i> 79(1), 5		
	Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2010): "The Strong Program. Prospects". In: John R. Hall, Laura Grindstaff & Ming-Cheng Lo (eds.) <i>Sociology.</i> London; New York: Routledge, 13-24.	_	
	Mannheim, Karl (1968): "On the Interpretation of 'Weltanschauung'". In: Es Knowledge. London: Routledge, 33-83.	ssays on the Sociology of	
	Oevermann, Ulrich, Allert Tilman, Elisabeth Konau & Jürgen Krambeck Meaning and Objective Hermeneutics". In: Meja, Volker & Dieter Misgeld Sociology. European Perspectives. New York: Columbia University Press, 43	(eds.): Modern German	
	Titscher, Stefan, Michael Meyer, Ruth Wodak & Eva Vetter (2003): <i>Method Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 198-212.	ds of Text and Discourse	
Case Studies	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (1988): "Culture and Political Crisis. 'Watergate' and Durkheimian Sociology". In: Alexander, Jeffrey C. (ed.), <i>Durkheimian Sociology. Cultural Studies</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 187-224.		
	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2010): The Performance of Politics. Obama's Victor Struggle for Power. Oxford: Oxford University Press.	ory and the Democratic	
	Smith, Philip (2005): Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf W University of Chicago Press.	/ar, and Suez. Chicago:	
	Smith, Philip (2008): Punishment and Culture. Chicago: University of Chicag	o Press.	
	Mannheim, Karl (1986): <i>Conservatism. A Contribution to the Sociology</i> Routledge.	of Knowledge. London:	
	Mann, Stefan (2007): "Understanding Farm Succession by the Objective He Sociologia Ruralis 47(4), 369-383.	ermeneutics Method". In:	











VIII	Interpretive Communities (16.4.) / C. Szaló		
VIII	interpretive Communities (10.4.) / C. Szalo		
Required	Fish, Stanley E. (1976). "Interpreting the 'Variorum.'" Critical Inquiry 2 (3):465–85.		
Readings	Reed, Isaac (2011): "Interpretation". In: Interpretation and Social Knowledge. On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 89-122.		
Additional Readings	Fish, Stanley E. (1980): <i>Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 338-355.		
IX	Interpretation of Artifacts and Practices (23.4)	Seminar (26.4)	
Required Readings	Gell, Alfred (1998): <i>Art and Agency. An Anthropological Theory</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 12-50.	Interpretation session in the Moravian	
	Latour, Bruno (1991): "The Berlin Key or How to Do Words with Things". In: Graves-Brown, Paul (ed.), <i>Matter, Materiality and Modern Culture</i> . London: Routledge, 10-21.	Gallery with S. Darrow	
Additional Readings	Keane, Webb (2005): "Signs Are not the Garb of Meaning. On the Social Analysis of Material Things". In: Miller, Daniel (ed.), <i>Materiality</i> . Durham; London: Duke University Press, 182-205.		
	Bourdieu, Pierre (1990): The Logic of Practice. Stanford: Stanford University Press.		
	Reckwitz, Andreas (2002): "Toward a Theory of Social Practices. A Development in Culturalist Theorizing". In: <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i> 5(2), 243-265.		
	Reckwitz, Andreas (2002): "The Status of the 'Material' in Theories of Cultu Structure" to "Artefacts'". In: Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour 32(		
Additional			
Material	Peach, Eric Crassoi (2012): "Žižek on Toilets and the Christchurch Rebuild", <i>Project Freerange</i> , http://www.projectfreerange.com/zizek-on-toilets-and-the-christchurch-rebuild/		
х	Interpretation of Pictures (30.4)		
Required Readings	Panofsky, Erwin (1955): <i>Meaning in the Visual Arts. Papers in and on Art History</i> . Garden City: Doubleday, 26-54.		
	Binder, Werner & Bernadette N. Jaworsky (2018): "Refugees as Ico Representation". In: Sociology Compass 12(3).	ns: Culture and Iconic	
	Foucault, Michel (1973): "Las Meninas". In: <i>The Order of Things. Archaeologiciences</i> . New York: Vintage Books, 3-18.	gy of the Human	











# Additional Readings

Bartmanski, Dominik (2012): "The Word/Image Dualism Revisited. Towards an Iconic Conception of Visual Culture". In: *Journal of Sociology*.

Bohnsack, Ralf (2010): "The Interpretation of Pictures and the Documentary Method". In: Bohnsack, Ralf et al. (eds.): *Qualitative Analysis and Documentary Method in International Educational Research*. Opladen: Budrich, 267-309.

Emmison, Michael & Philip Smith (2000): *Researching the Visual. Images, Objects, Context and Interactions in Social and Cultural Inquiry.* London: Sage.

Przyborski, Aglaja & Thomas Slunecko (2012): "Learning to Think Iconically in the Human and Social Sciences: Iconic Standards of Understanding as a Pivotal Challenge for Method Development". In: *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science* 46(1), 39-56.

Bourdieu, Pierre (2005/1967): "Postface to Erwin Panofsky, Gothic Architecture and Scholasticism". In: Holsinger, Bruce, *The Premodern Condition. Medievalism and the Making of Theory*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 221-242.

### Debate on "Las Meninas"

Searle, John R. (1980): ""Las Meninas" and the Paradoxes of Pictorial Representation". In: *Critical Inquiry* 6(3), 477-488.

Snyder, Joel (1985): ""Las Meninas" and the Mirror of the Prince". In: Critical Inquiry 11(4), 539-572.

Schmitter, Amy M. (1996): "Picturing Power: Representation and Las Meninas". In: *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 54(3), 255-268.

ХI	Texts, Narratives, Interviews (7.5)	Seminar (10.5)	
Required Reading	Nohl, Arnd-Michael (2010): "Narrative Interview and Documentary Interpretation". In: Bohnsack et al. (eds.): <i>Qualitative Analysis and Documentary Method in International Educational Research</i> . Opladen: Budrich, 195-217.		
	Pugh, Allison J. (2013): "What Good are Interviews for Thinking about Culture? Demystifying Interpretative Analysis". In: <i>American Journal of Cultural Sociology</i> 1(1), 42-68.		
	Smith, Philip (2005): Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 18-27.		
Additional	Campbell, Joseph (2004): <i>The Hero of a Thousand Faces</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press.		
Readings	Frye, Northrop (2000): <i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> . Four Essays. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press.		
	Propp, Vladimir (1984): Theory and History of Folklore. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.		
	Smith, Philip (2005): Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.		
	Swidler, Ann (2005): Talk of Love. How Culture Matters. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.		
	White, Hayden V. (1973): Metahistory. The Historical Imagination in Nine	eteenth-Century Europe.	











	Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.		
	Wuthnow, Robert (1988): "Religious Discourse as Public Rhetoric". In: <i>Communication Research</i> 15(3), 318-338.		
Debate on Interviews			
	Pugh, Allison J. (2014): "The Divining Rod of Talk. Emotions, Contradictions and the Limits of Research". In: <i>American Journal of Cultural Sociology</i> 2(1), 159-163.		
XII	Discourse Analysis (14.5)		
Required Readings	Laclau, Ernesto (1993): "Discourse". In: Robert E. Goodin (ed.): A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy, Oxford: Blackwell, 431-437.		
	Fairclough, Norman (1989): "Discourse as Social Practice". In: <i>Language and Power</i> . Harlow; New York: Longman, 17-42.		
	Foucault, Michel (1971): "Orders of Discourse". In: Social Science Information 10(2), 7-30.		
Additional	Fairclough, Norman (2000): New Labour, New Languag	nan (2000): <i>New Labour, New Language</i> . London; New York: Routledge.	
Readings	Foucault, Michel (1973): <i>The Order of Things. An Archaeology of the Human Sciences</i> . New York: Vintage Books.		
Lakoff, George (2006): <i>Moral Politics. How Liberals and Conservatives Think.</i> Chicago: U Chicago Press.			
	ry Play. Terrorism as Social Drama. Chicago:		
Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2010): <i>The Performance of Politics. Obama's Victory and to Struggle for Power.</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press.			
	Smith, Philip & Nicolas Howe (2015): <i>Climate Change as Social Drama</i> . Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.		
XIII	Final Exam (21.5)		
	5 out of 10 questions regarding theories and methods discussed in the lecture or the required readings	Interpretative essay of 8-10 pages (more for team work)	
	1 out of 3 interpretative exercises	Deadline: June 15, 2019	
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#### Additional Literature

Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Steven Seidman (1990, ed.): *Culture and Society. Contemporary Debates*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2003): *The Meanings of Social Life. A Cultural Sociology*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

Alexander, Jeffrey C., Bernhard Giesen & Jason L. Mast (2006, eds.): *Social Performance. Symbolic Action, Cultural Pragmatics, and Ritual.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Alexander, Jeffrey C., Dominik Bartmanski & Bernhard Giesen (2012, eds.): *Iconic Power. Materiality and Meaning in Social Life.* New York; Houndmills: Palgrave.

Andersen, Niels Åkerstrøm (2003): Discursive Analytical Strategies. Understanding Foucault, Koselleck, Laclau, Luhmann. Bristol: The Policy Press.

Back, Les, Andy Bennett, Laura Desfor Edles, Margaret Gibson, David Inglis, Ronald Jacobs & Ian Woodward (2012): *Cultural Sociology. An Introduction.* Malden; Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

Bohnsack, Ralf, Nicolle Pfaff & Wivian Weller (2010, eds.): *Qualitative Analysis and Documentary Method in International Educational Research*. Opladen: Budrich.

Edles, Laura Desfor (2002): Cultural Sociology in Practice. Malden; Oxford: Blackwell.

Fairclough, Norman (2003): Analyzing Discourse. Textual Analysis for Social Research. London; New York: Routledge.

Fairclough, Norman & Isabela Fairclough (2012): *Political Discourse Analysis. A Method for Advanced Students*. London; New York: Routledge.

Flick, Uwe (2009): An Introduction to Qualitative Research. London; Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Flick, Uwe (2014, ed.): The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis. London; Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Giddens, Anthony (1993): New Rules of Sociological Method. A Positive Critique of Interpretative Sociologies. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Ricoeur, Paul (1976): *Interpretation Theory. Discourse and the Surplus of Meaning*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press.

Riessman, Catherine Kohler (2008): Narrative Methods for the Human Sciences. London: Sage.

Smith, Philip (1998, ed.): The New American Cultural Sociology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Smith, Philip & Alexander Riley (2009): Cultural Theory. An Introduction. Malden: Blackwell.

Steinke, Ines, Ernst von Kardoff & Uwe Flick (2004, eds.): A Companion to Qualitative Research. London: Sage.









