## Advanced Methods of Interpretation in Cultural Sociology

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.  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.  Regular attendance and written test based on the lecture and the obligatory readings.  Regular attendance and written test based on the lecture and the obligatory readings.  Assessment Methods  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 assession, we will discuss fundamental texts and case studies instead. At the end of the course, students should have a broader knowledge and methodology and methods of interpretation used in cultural sociology and related fields. Students should have a broader knowledge and deeper understanding of methods of interpretation of images and texts, within its important with regard to future qualitative research projects (such as the MA thesis).  Regular attendance and written test based on the lecture (soc 775), participation in class and the submission of a successful final paper.  Assessment Methods  1. Written test (90%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F 2. Participation in the lecture, for example trough comments and questions (10%)	Title	Lecture (soc 575)	Seminar (soc 575a)
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.  Regular attendance and written test based on the lecture and the obligatory readings.  Resessment Methods  1. Written test (90%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F  2. Participation in the lecture, for example trough comments and questions (10%)  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).  Registration and attendance of the lecture (soc 775), participation in class and the submission of a successful final paper.  1. Written test (90%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F  2. 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).  Registration and attendance of the lecture (soc 775), participation in class and the submission of a successful final paper.		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	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
Assessment Methods  1. Written test (90%): 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F 2. Participation in the lecture, for example trough comments and questions (10%)  (soc 775), participation in class and the submission of a successful final paper.  1. Participation in class (40%) 2. Interpretation essay (60%)		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	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
Methods = C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F  2. Participation in the lecture, for example trough comments and questions (10%)  2. Interpretation essay (60%)		_	(soc 775), participation in class and the
		= C, 60-69 = D, 50-59 = E, 0-49 = F  2. Participation in the lecture, for example trough	
ECTS points 10 5	ECTS points	10	5











ı	What is Interpretation? (18.2)		
Required Readings	Geertz, Clifford (2006): "Thick Description: Towards an Interpretative Theory of Culture". In: <i>The Interpretation of Cultures. Selected Essays</i> . New York: Basic Books, 3-30.		
	Reed, Isaac (2011): "Knowledge". In: Interpretation and Social Knowledge. On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 15-38.		
Additional Readings	Eco, Umberto: (1992): Interpretation and Overinterpretation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.		
	Taylor, Charles (1985): "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man". In: <i>Philosophical Papers 2. Philosophy and the Human Sciences</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 15-57.		
	Weber, Max (1978): Economy and Society. Outline of an Interpretative Sociology. Berkeley: University of California Press, 3-26.		
п	On Methodology (25.2)	Seminar (26.2)	

II	On Methodology (25.2)	Seminar (26.2)
Required Readings	Thornberg, Robert & Kathy Charmaz (2014): "Grounded Theory and Theoretical Coding". In: Flick, Uwe (ed.), The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis. London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 153-169.  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	Abbott, Andrew (2004): <i>Methods of Discovery. Heuristics for the Social Sciences</i> . New York; London: Norton.  Glaser, Barney G. & Anselm L. Strauss (2006): <i>The Discovery of Grounded Theory. Strategies for Qualitative Research</i> . New Brunswick; London: Aldine Transaction.  Peirce, Charles Sanders (1998): "Pragmatism as the Logic of Abduction". In: <i>The Essential Peirce</i> .	
Weber, Max (1949): "'Objectivity' in Social Sciences and Social Policy". <i>Sciences</i> . Glencoe: Free Press, 49-112.		omington: Indiana University Press, 226-241. es and Social Policy". In: <i>The Methodology of Social</i>











Ш	Understanding: Phenomenological Hermeneutics (3.3) / C. Szaló		
Ricoeur, Paul (2007): "The Task of Hermeneutics". In: From Text to Action.  Required  II. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 53-74.		n. Essays in Hermeneutics	
Readings			
Additional Readings	,		
	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): <i>Truth and Method</i> . New York: Continuum.		
Case Studies	Weber, Max (2001): <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.</i> London, New York: Routledge. Geertz, Clifford (2006): "Deep Play. Notes on the Balinese Cockfight". In: <i>The Interpretation of</i>		
	Cultures. Selected Essays. New York: Basic Books, 412-453.		
IV	Critical Hermeneutics (10.3) / C. Szaló Seminar (11.3)		
Required Readings	Ricoeur, Paul (2007): "Hermeneutics and the Critique of Ideology" In: From Text to Action. Essays in Hermeneutics II. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 270-307.	Interpretation session with student material.	
	Reed, Isaac (2011): "Utopia". In: Interpretation and Social Knowledge. On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 67-88.		
Additional Readings	Habermas, Jürgen (1989): The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. An Inquiry into 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: Ne Literary History 5(1), 91-117.		
	T		
V	Interpretive Communities (17.3) / C. Szaló		
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.		











Readings	Fish, Stanley E. (1980): Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of International Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 338-355.	,	
VI	Structuralism and Poststructuralism (24.3)	Seminar (25.3)	
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.		
	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): The Elementary Structures of Kinship. Boston: Beacon Press.		
Studies	Lévi-Strauss, Claude (1961): Tristes Tropiques. 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 Ritual". In: <i>Theory a</i> 20(1), 103-138.		l". In: Theory and Society	
	Reading Week		
VII	Structural Hermeneutics I (7.4)	Seminar (8.4)	
Required	Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2003): "The Strong Program in Cultural	Interpretation session	



Readings





Sociology. Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics". In: *The Meanings of* with student material.





Social Life. A Cultural Sociology, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 11-26.

Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2003): "The Discourse of American Civil Society". In: Alexander, Jeffrey C. (ed.), *The Meanings of Social Life. A* 

*Cultural Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 121-154.

Additional Readings	Emirbayer, Mustafa (2004): "The Alexander School of Cultural Sociology". In: <i>Thesis Eleven</i> 79(1), 5-15.
	Alexander, Jeffrey C. & Philip Smith (2010): "The Strong Program. Origins, Achievements, Prospects". In: John R. Hall, Laura Grindstaff & Ming-Cheng Lo (eds.): <i>Handbook of Cultural Sociology</i> . London; New York: Routledge, 13-24.
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): <i>The Performance of Politics. Obama's Victory and the Democratic Struggle for Power.</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press.
	Smith, Philip (2005): Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
	Smith, Philip (2008): Punishment and Culture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

VIII	Structural Hermeneutics II (14.4)	
Required Readings	Mannheim, Karl (1968): "On the Interpretation of 'Weltanschauung'" [excerpt]. In: Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge. 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	Mannheim, Karl (1968): "On the Interpretation of 'Weltanschauung'". In: Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge. London: Routledge, 33-83.	
	Oevermann, Ulrich, Allert Tilman, Elisabeth Konau & Jürgen Krambeck (1987): "Structures of Meaning and Objective Hermeneutics". In: Meja, Volker & Dieter Misgeld (eds.): <i>Modern German Sociology. European Perspectives.</i> New York: Columbia University Press, 436-447.	
	Titscher, Stefan, Michael Meyer, Ruth Wodak & Eva Vetter (2003): <i>Methods of Text and Discourse Analysis</i> . London; Thousand Oaks: Sage, 198-212.	
Case Studies	Mannheim, Karl (1986): <i>Conservatism. A Contribution to the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . London: Routledge.	
	Mann, Stefan (2007): "Understanding Farm Succession by the Objective Hermeneutics Method". In: <i>Sociologia Ruralis</i> 47(4), 369-383.	











IX	Interpretation of Artifacts and Practices (21.4)	Seminar (22.4)	
Required Readings	Gell, Alfred (1998): <i>Art and Agency. An Anthropological Theory</i> . Oxford: Interpretation session (Clarendon, 12-50. with student materials)		
	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.		
Additional Readings	, , , ,		
	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.		
l	Reckwitz, Andreas (2002): "The Status of the 'Material' in Theories of Cultu Structure" to "Artefacts'". In: Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour 320		
Additional	Žižek, Slavoj (2004): "Knee-Deep", <i>London Review of Books</i> , September 2.		
Material  Peach, Eric Crassoi (2012): "Žižek on Toilets and the Christchurch Reb http://www.projectfreerange.com/zizek-on-toilets-and-the-christchurch-			
x	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.	Interpretation session in the Moravian	
	Binder, Werner & Bernadette N. Jaworsky (2018): "Refugees as Icons: Culture and Iconic Representation". In: <i>Sociology Compass</i> 12(3).	Gallery with S. Darrow	
	Foucault, Michel (1973): "Las Meninas". In: <i>The Order of Things.</i> Archaeology of the Human Sciences. New York: Vintage Books, 3-18.		
Additional Readings	, , , , , ,		
	Bohnsack, Ralf (2010): "The Interpretation of Pictures and the Documentary Method". In: Bohnsack, Ralf et al. (eds.): <i>Qualitative Analysis and Documentary Method in International Educational Research</i> . 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, <i>The Premodern Condition. Medievalism and the Making of Theory</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 221-242.
Debate on "Las Meninas"	Searle, John R. (1980): ""Las Meninas" and the Paradoxes of Pictorial Representation". In: <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 6(3), 477-488.
	Snyder, Joel (1985): "Las Meninas" and the Mirror of the Prince". In: <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 11(4), 539-572.  Schmitter, Amy M. (1996): "Picturing Power: Representation and Las Meninas". In: <i>The Journal of</i>
	Aesthetics and Art Criticism 54(3), 255-268.

ΧI	Texts, Narratives, Interviews (5.5)	Seminar (6.5)	
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.	Interpretation session with student material.	
	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): The Hero of a Thousand Faces. Princeton: Princeton University Press.		
Readings	Frye, Northrop (2000): <i>Anatomy of Criticism</i> . Four Essays. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press.		
	Propp, Vladimir (1984): <i>Theory and History of Folklore</i> . 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): <i>Metahistory. The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe.</i> Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.		
	Wuthnow, Robert (1988): "Religious Discourse as Public Rhetoric". In: Comi 15(3), 318-338.	munication Research	
Debate on Interviews	Vaisey, Stephen (2014): "Is Interviewing Compatible with the Dual-process Model of Culture?" In: American Journal of Cultural Sociology 2(1), 150-158.		
	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 Language. 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: University of Chicago Press.
	Wagner-Pacifici, Robin Erica (1986): <i>The Moro Morality Play. Terrorism as Social Drama</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2010): <i>The Performance of Politics. Obama's Victory and the Democratic 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  1 out of 3 interpretative exercises	Interpretative essay of 8-10 pages (more for team work)  Deadline: June 15, 2020











## 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.

Binder, Werner (2018): "The semiotics of social life". In: American Journal of Cultural Sociology 6(2), 401-416.

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.

Michel, Johann (2019): Homo Interpretans. London; New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Raud, Rein (2016): Meaning in Action. Outline of an Integral Theory of Culture. Cambridge; Malden: Polity.

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.









