

Kritikos Study Group

Aim:

- To provide a regular, supportive space in which PhD students and researchers can present, discuss and explore their qualitative research, from a range of social science disciplines and theoretical perspectives.
- To help the development of colleagues' work and connections between social scientists at the school.
- To provide a networking opportunity for PhD students and researchers who might be working with similar methods, data, concepts, theory or analysis.

Format of the group:

- Twice monthly sessions, 2nd Thursday of the month, afternoon; and 4th Tuesday, morning. with an expectation that members will attend most sessions.
- Material to be discussed can be:
 - a piece of writing from their work (draft paper, chapter, section of a chapter, section of a report etc);
 - data or field notes for analysis (ideally, some preliminary analysis / interpretation should have been done already);
 - or a theoretically-driven article or book chapter to be read, that links to a specific 'problem' or concept in their work. We would however encourage these pieces to be shared in the 'core' readings weeks if possible!
- Discussants will circulate material at least three days before the session for the others to read in preparation.
- Members will also take it in turns to chair a session, facilitating the discussion and summarising it at the end of the session. They may offer to take notes for the person presenting. The chair of the session will be the person who presented at the last session.
- Members should expect to attend and contribute to at least several sessions before presenting their own work, and should be prepared to continue attending sessions after presenting their work.
- Members should remember to maintain the confidentiality of any work shared among the group.

Designed for:

- PhD students, staff members and researchers conducting qualitative research that is rooted in a social science discipline, and is theoretically-informed. Some prior engagement with social science theories is assumed, however we each learn a lot from attending the sessions so your knowledge of social science theory is likely to increase exponentially by attending.
- People who are keen and able to attend sessions regularly, and to contribute to the development of others' work, as well as their own.
- People who have the time to commit to attending most sessions, and to reading the necessary materials in advance of each session.
- Any stage PhD student from 1st year onwards.
- People conducting mixed methods research where the qualitative component is theoretically informed. (Please note, this group will not be discussing quantitative analysis or data.)