

Research Methods in Linguistics

Autumn 2012 - Wednesday 9-11am

Queens Building room W207

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Office Hours: drop in and
by appointment

Module Goals

This module focuses on research methodologies in Linguistics. You will get hands-on experience in working with a variety of issues involved in conducting original linguistic research, including project design, data collection and analysis, and presentation of research findings. This is a work-intensive module. Since the best way to learn research methods is to actually practice them, you will complete regular practical field assignments. You will also read and learn the theoretical underpinnings of various research methods. The module is conducted as a seminar: active participation in all class discussions is both expected and encouraged.

Learning Outcomes

This module prepares students to:

1. Collect, analyze and interpret original linguistic data
2. Devise appropriate research questions and the empirical methodologies with which to best address these questions
3. Present, both orally and in writing, empirically-based findings in a logical, coherent and theoretically compelling fashion

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Unexcused absences from **more than two** class meetings and/or failure to complete **two or more** required assignments is grounds for **deregistration** from the module. Assessed coursework is due by 5pm on the given date. Late work will be pegged at 40E for two weeks, and at 0F thereafter. Coursework extensions can only be granted by the Senior Tutor. See Student Handbook for details.

Readings

There will be few required readings for this module. Most of the reading you do will be journal research articles that you will find for your research project. Some suggested helpful or interesting readings can be found on the moodle site for this module.

Suggested/Useful Texts (widely available)

Kepser, Stephan., & Reis, Marga. (2005). Linguistic evidence empirical, theoretical, and computational perspectives. Berlin; New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Johnstone, Barbara. 2000. Qualitative methods in sociolinguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Litosseliti, Lia (ed.). 2010. Research methods in linguistics. London: Continuum.

Macaulay, Ronald. 2009. Quantitative methods in sociolinguistics. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Rasinger, Sebastian. 2008. Quantitative research in linguistics. London: Continuum.

Sealey, Alison. 2010. Researching English language. London: Routledge.

Wray, Alison & Aileen Bloomer. 2006. Projects in linguistics. London: Hodder Arnold.

Assessment

assignment	percent	due date
1. annotated bibliographies	25	14.11.12
2. dissertation prospectus	25	12.12.12
3. qualitative analysis	25	11.01.13
4. quantitative analysis	25	11.01.13

All written work must be uploaded to Moodle/QMplus. The Moodle upload will constitute the definitive timestamp. Only pdf files will count - no .doc or .docx files under any circumstances.

1. Annotated Bibliography Assignment [25% of mark] [due 14.11.12]

Each student must share with me a Mendeley library containing 4 journal articles on a specific research topic, with a 250 word annotation on each of the 4 articles which:

- a. provides a brief summary of the contents of the article in your own words
- b. spells out how this article is relevant to your research

2. Dissertation Prospectus [25% of mark] [due 12.12.12]

Each student will submit a 1000 word prospectus which clearly lays out their proposed dissertation research programme. Further details on the format and content of this prospectus will be provided in a separate document.

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me, and/or with potential dissertation supervisors **well in advance** of the prospectus deadline. Note that having discussions with a potential supervisor does not guarantee that this person will be designated your official supervisor.

On December 5th, we will have a prospectus workshop, so students are required to have at least a rough draft of their proposal by this date.

The dissertation prospectus will be used to determine official supervisory assignments.

3. Qualitative and Quantitative Analyses [25% each] [due 11.01.13]

Students will complete several small research projects over the course of the semester. Following detailed guidelines given during the Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis workshops in November, students will analyze these data sets and write up their results.