

GEOG2035 Practising Human Geographical Research (Field Trip)

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What's this about?

Why do a focus group rather than a questionnaire? Why count the number of shops selling groceries on a high street rather than interview the shop-keepers? In what situations is participant observation an appropriate research strategy? This course gives you the skills to make decisions about which research methods are appropriate for your research questions. You will also learn what you need to think about in the process of designing your own research project (good training before your third year dissertation research project). This course will also make you reflect on your own background, culture, beliefs and how they shape the way you view the world and the way people view you.

What will we do?

You will have some lectures on research design and statistical methods and participate in interactive practicals in Southampton and we will spend 5 days away in either Paris or Amsterdam where you will have daily tutorials or workshops, go out into the field and do group work at locations such as the Anne Frank museum, the Artis zoo (Amsterdam). La Défense, Parc André Citroën, the Marais district and Le Centre Pompidou (Paris). Whilst in the field you will work in small groups to gather and analyse data. The field trip will give you the opportunity to develop valuable skills and experiences of being a researcher.

Employment value

The module enhances and develops key research and data analysis skills. Developing the confidence to approach interviewees in a field context is also a valuable skill in enhancing your own self-awareness and self-confidence.



The Student View

“Getting to conduct your own fieldwork in Amsterdam was the highlight for me. Having to come up with your own research question and methods was challenging and new for me but I really enjoyed it. It will also prove to be a very useful module for my upcoming dissertation.”

“I really enjoyed the trip and it has encouraged me to sign up for the optional Berlin Fieldcourse“