

SOC 776/978

WRITING SOCIOLOGY

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Room 3.59

Consultation Hours:

Tuesdays 14.00-15.00

or by appointment

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Gun control
- Abortion rights
- Freedom of Speech
- Voting
- Education

Why do we review literatures?

- To map the field or fields relevant to the inquiry (historical development, empirical/theoretical bases, key figures/texts, major debates)
- To establish which studies, ideas and/or methods are most pertinent to the specific research being undertaken
- To create the warrant for the research (identifying gaps, bringing the separate together, speaking to a particular debate or puzzle)
- To identify the particular contribution *your* research will make

BUT it is *not* just a review or “laundry list”

We are “narrating” the literatures (plural)

- How much do we know about the topic?
- What is the best available info and why?
- What methods have researchers used? Are they effective?
- What data are available?
- What are the main conclusions?
- What is missing? What can you discover?
- How will readers benefit from your contribution?

How to understand working with literatures

- ***Writing as discursive social practice*** – What is your academic climate?
- ***Writing as dialogic*** – Is your work lively and pleasurable to read; does it engage the reader in a conversation?
- ***Writing as text/identity work*** – “The practices of academic writing produce simultaneously a scholar and a text.” Learning to write with authority

Mapping the field of literatures

Getting Started

I turn now to what is already known about _____.

I look first at why, according to the literatures, _____, and I detail the _____ that has resulted.

I note the minimal focus on _____ relative to other research and the limited work which foregrounds _____.

It is this gap to which I am to contribute.

Mapping the field of literatures

I turn now to what is already known about dogs as pets. I look first at why, according to the literatures, some dog breeds are seen as compatible with humans and others are too aggressive, and I detail the data collection practices that have resulted. I note the minimal focus on the role of dogs as companions that are “fun” relative to other research and the limited work which foregrounds the structures of meaning underlying pet selection and ownership. It is this gap to which I am to contribute.

Mapping the field of literatures – Part II

The study builds on and contributes to work in

_____.

Although studies in _____ have examined

_____ there has not been an _____.

As such, this study provides additional insight into

_____.

The analytic focus on _____ enables another contribution.

This study analyses _____.

Although numerous studies () have identified _____,

little analytic attention has been paid to _____.

I address this issue by demonstrating _____.

Mapping the field of literatures- Part II

The study builds on and contributes to work in the study of dogs as pets. Although studies in pet ownership have examined the role of aggressiveness as a measure of suitable companionship and ownership of dogs, there has not been a sustained engagement with *why* people choose to have dogs as pets. As such, this study provides additional insight into the ways in which “fun” represents an important factor in assessing a particular dog breed’s suitability as a pet. The analytic focus on cultural structures enables another contribution. This study analyses the ways in which pet owners engage in the process of meaning making about their pets. Although numerous studies (Pavlov 1890; Jones 1992; Smith 2007) have identified objective criteria (e.g. aggressiveness), little analytic attention has been paid to how dogs can be “fun” pets. I address this issue by demonstrating that pet ownership is an inherently cultural practice.

Tips for Searching

- Use Google Scholar - [Transnational migration studies: Past developments and future trends](#) [PDF] from [peggylevitt.org](#)
..., BN Jaworsky - Annu. Rev. Sociol., 2007 - [annualreviews.org](#)

Abstract The past two decades have witnessed a sea change in migration scholarship. Most scholars now recognize that many contemporary migrants and their predecessors maintain various kinds of ties to their homelands at the same time that they are incorporated into the ...

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- Using Boolean Operators:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa66AxTbjxA>

NEXT WEEK

REQUIRED READING:

- Turabian, Ch. 6-8, pp. 63-88. (25 pp.)
- SWG, YOUR CHOICE of Ch. 6 (Quantitative) or Ch. 7 (Ethnographic) (35 pp.)

HOMEWORK DUE IN CLASS: Topic, Research Q, 3-5 sources with Notes; preliminary elevator story

My elevator story (90 seconds or less)

- I am working on the problem of (state your question).
- I think I can show that (state your hypothesis) because (state your reasons).
- My best evidence is (summarize your evidence).