



RSPH Tutorial Methods & Techniques in Political History

Supervisors: Dr Joris Gijsenberg and prof Dirk Jan Wolfram

Date: Friday 2 February 2024, 13.00-17.00pm

Location: Spinhuis, room 2.18, O.Z. Achterburgwal 185, Amsterdam

Please register before 25 January 2024

This tutorial is dedicated to research methods: the trajectory from historiographical debate through research question to an effective research strategy. In this interactive tutorial, the central questions are: what is the use of historical methodology, what is your methodological approach, how does your topic legitimize your research methods, and what are the major methodological challenges of your research project?

In the tutorial Methods & Techniques, PhD candidates reflect on the abovementioned questions, present their most urgent methodological bottleneck and try to find the best strategy to solve their problems together with other PhD candidates and senior researchers Joris Gijsenbergh and Dirk Jan Wolfram. During the tutorial, we will discuss your choices and your bottlenecks both plenary and in small groups. In this way we can learn from each other and inspire each other.

Program

13.00-14.00 Introduction, brief presentation of all PhD-projects, discussion on the reading material

14.00-16.30 Group sessions on methodological bottlenecks

15.15-15.30 Coffee/tea break

16.30-17.00 Plenary discussion on the outcomes of the group discussion and closure

17.00 Drinks

Preparations

1. Read the required literature.
2. Prepare a statement of circa 750 words, which states your research question, a reflection on the readings of Gunn/Faire (on the necessity of precise methodology) and Cavazza (on the tension between history-writing and social sciences) with regard to your research project, as well as your most urgent methodological bottleneck. Add the title of a recent PhD-dissertation of your own choice, related to the topic of your PhD-research project. Read the Introduction/methodological chapter of this PhD-dissertation as reference and/or source of inspiration. Mail your statement before January 26, 2024, noon (12 AM) to d.j.wolfram@rug.nl and joris.gijsenbergh@kiesraad.nl

3. In this Tutorial, the emphasis is on the group session. We will compose groups prior to the Tutorial, participants read the texts of the group members and prepare the discussion by reflecting on the nature of the similarities and differences in each other's methodological approaches, and relate these to the readings of Gunn/Faire and Cavazza. We would like to emphasize that the group discussions take place in an atmosphere of openness and confidentiality.

Required literature

- The Introduction (pp 1-11) in Simon Gunn and Lucy Faire (eds), *Research Methods for History* (2nd edition, Edinburgh, 2016). This volume offers contributions on a range of research methods that may inspire you as well.
- Stefano Cavazza, 'Suspicious Brothers: Reflections on Political History and Social Sciences', in Special Issue. *Political History Today: Power, Subjects, Categories* (Edited by Raffaella Baritono), *Ricerche di Storia Politica*, October 2017, 53-63. This text was also part of the reading for the tutorial What is Political History.
- Introduction/methodological chapter of a recent PhD-dissertation of your own choice related to the topic of your PhD-research project.

Registration

Participants need to register at bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl before **January 25**. There is a limit of 15 participants; first year PhD candidates have priority. After registering, you will receive the readings.

Requirements and credits

- Minimum (1 EC): Preparation: reading the literature and writing a preparatory paper of 750-1000 words with main ideas, comments and question; Active participation in the discussion.
- Additional (1 EC): Writing a paper of 3000 words on the central topic of the tutorial, to be submitted after the meeting.