

AISSR PhD Courses Brochure

2023-2024

Semester II

Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR)
Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS)

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Introduction

Dear PhDs,

In this course brochure you can find all the PhD courses for the second semester of the academic year 2023/2024.

The AISSR and the Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS) offer excellent academic training in an international setting, encouraging an open and intellectual environment. The training programme includes courses and workshops on the knowledge and skills required to successfully complete a PhD in the social sciences. It is designed to enable PhD students to hone specific expertise as well as engage in interdisciplinary debates. The programme is open to PhD candidates from all the AISSR disciplines and contributes to a stronger PhD community.

You can select from over thirty courses and various workshops offered by the AISSR and GSSS research master programmes. We would like to thank the Graduate School for their generous offer to open up so many courses to our PhDs. This year a selection of master's courses has 3 guaranteed reserved positions for PhD candidates, which means a major improvement in the course registration procedure.

In order to be able to offer a PhD training programme that works for both PhDs and course lecturers there are some general rules to follow:

- The AISSR introductory course is mandatory for all PhDs who start in June 2023 or later;
- All courses are on site; remote participation is not possible;
- You need to consult with your supervisor before signing up to a course;
- Registration implies a commitment to full participation: it is not possible to select sessions or skip assignments;
- Registration will be final after our confirmation that you can enroll in the course.

You can register for courses by sending an email to ai SSR@uva.nl. Please list your name, the course, your supervisors, your programme group, and the title of your project.

We hope you are enthusiastic about the courses we organise this year and look forward receiving your registration requests.

With best wishes,

Han Bakker, AISSR Office Manager

Simon Cijssouw, AISSR PhD Coordinator

Justus Uitermark, AISSR Academic Director

Gerben Nooteboom, Dean of the Graduate School of Social Sciences

And other members of the AISSR Educational Committee

Regular Courses offered by the AISSR

AISSR PhD Introductory Course

(semester I & II)

From October 2023, the AISSR introduces a **mandatory** PhD Introductory Course. This course aims to build scientific awareness and integrity, address PhD-related issues, and stimulate discussion about academic culture, careers and societal relevance. The format of this course will be as interactive as possible (on the basis of short weekly assignments and assigned readings) in which we will collaboratively discuss some main elements of your starting research projects.

The AISSR unites social science research and different disciplines. As a multi-disciplinary institute, we foster interdisciplinary dialogue. As scholars, we come from different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds. The aim of this course is to encourage curiosity towards each other's projects and stimulate conversations and mutual assistance in navigating academia in a global world.

The course consists of 8 sessions with different topics, such as writing your 8th month paper, academic integrity, research data management and social impact.

The course will be coordinated by dr. Floris Vermeulen, dr. Rachel Spronk and guest lecturers.

For whom?

This course is mandatory for all PhD candidates that have started their PhD at the AISSR since June 2023. We encourage PhD candidates that have started in the spring of 2023 to join as well.

Course dates and time

DATES	TIME	ROOMS
Monday 5 February 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B9.22 (Common Room Political Science)
Monday 12 February 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B2.05
Monday 19 February 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B9.22 (Common Room Political Science)
Monday 26 February 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B9.22 (Common Room Political Science)
Monday 4 March 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B9.22 (Common Room Political Science)
Monday 11 March 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B2.05
Monday 18 March 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B2.05
Monday 25 March 2024	15.00-17.00	REC B9.22 (Common Room Political Science)

Another group will start in the 1st semester of the next academic year (September-October 2024).

Workload

2 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to Marleen Rademaker (Secretary Academic Integrity) at m.e.b.rademaker@uva.nl.

More information on the content, locations and reading material will be available on Canvas in August.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact [Marleen Rademaker](#)

Fundamentals of English Academic Writing

(semester I & II)

A short practical course for people beginning their research. This course focuses on the fundamentals of academic writing, looking at articles, theses, and at argument, structure, style, paragraphing, writing for different audiences and relevant grammar. This course is taught by Amal Chatterjee and corresponds to 1 ECTS.

Course dates and time

DATES	TIME	ROOMS
Thursday 1 February	10.00-13.00	REC-C2.01
Thursday 8 February	10.00-13.00	REC-C2.07

Another group will start in the 1st semester of the next academic year (both groups with a minimum of 5 course participants).

Workload

1 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to aisr@uva.nl.

Writing up Research: English Academic Writing

(semester I & II)

The course focuses on preparing participants to write up fieldwork, write articles for publication and to write PhD theses. It covers aspects of structure, the conventions of academic writing, the differences between writing for publication, for dissertations, and for information purposes (lay readers, popular science writing), grammar, and provides practical guidance on error correction. The course is taught by Amal Chatterjee and corresponds to 3 ECTS.

Course dates and time

DATES	TIME	ROOMS
Wednesday 13 March	10.00-15.30	REC-E0.04
Wednesday 20 March	10.00-15.30	REC-B2.11
Wednesday 3 April	10.00-15.30	REC-B3.01
Wednesday 10 April	10.00-15.30	REC-E0.07
Wednesday 17 April	Tutorials; 10.00-15.30	REC-B8.09M
Thursday 18 April	Tutorials; 10.00-15.30	REC-B8.09M

Another group will start in the 1st semester of the next academic year (with a minimum of 5 course participants).

Workload

3 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to aisr@uva.nl.

Ethnographic Research Practices (Beginners)

(semester I-II)

This course aims to familiarize PhDs having little to no fieldwork experience, with ethnographic research practices. In the first 4 (out of 8) weekly 3-hour seminars, we will read and discuss assigned readings (about 50-70 pp. per week). Most of the assigned readings will consist of ethnographers' reflections on their own ethnographic research experiences.

The following questions will be addressed:

- What is special about ethnography as a research practice, methodologically, epistemologically, and ethically?
- How (by which methods) are ethnographic data "collected" and analysed? (the use of the double quotation marks is quite deliberate and will become evident in the course)
- What are the problems of writing up ethnographic research, and which styles and modes of writing have been practiced to tackle these problems?

In the second part of the course, participants may suggest additional readings that suit their needs and wishes. Apart from reading and discussing relevant literature, students will carry out a small ethnographic research project, and present and discuss results and experiences in the weekly meetings. At the end of the course, participants have to submit a brief reflection paper (1400 words) in which they explain how the course has been relevant (or not) to their PhD projects.

Prior to the first seminar, participants will be asked to submit their motivation to take this course. The course is taught by Pamela Prickett and corresponds to 12 ECTS.

Course dates and time

DATES	TIME	ROOMS
Friday 12 January 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-C3.02
Friday 19 January 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.01
Friday 26 January 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.01
Friday 2 February 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.02
Friday 9 February 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.01
Friday 16 February 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B2.08
Friday 23 February 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.01
Friday 1 March 2024	09.00-12.00	REC-B3.01

Workload

12 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to aisr@uva.nl.

Ethnographic Methods (Advanced)

(semester II)

This advanced course is for PhD students with previous experience in using ethnographic methods (including participant observation, open interviews, and ethnographically analyzing other relevant materials). It will concentrate on issues that arise in everyday research and challenge you to take a next step in your development as a researcher. As a participant you are addressed as an agent of your own learning process and encouraged to explore methods with an eye on your own PhD project. The teaching is hands on and includes micro-ethnographies that we will discuss jointly. The course is taught by Else Vogel and corresponds to 12 ECTS.

Course dates and time

DATES	TIMES	ROOMS
Tuesday 6 February	13:00-16:00	REC-L0.10
Tuesday 13 February	13:00-16:00	REC-B3.01
Tuesday 27 February	13:00-16:00	REC-B3.11
Tuesday 5 March	13:00-16:00	REC-L0.11
Tuesday 19 March	13:00-16:00	REC-B3.01
Tuesday 26 March	13:00-16:00	REC-B3.11

Workload

12 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to aissr@uva.nl.

Advanced Social Science Theory Course

(Semester II)

One of the hallmarks of the AISSR is a commitment to exploring various epistemological perspectives and fostering conversations among them. This course introduces two such perspectives: positivism and relational social science. Abbey Steele's unit delves into the examination of governance and the state through a positivist lens, while Justus Uitermark focuses on classical contributions in relational sociology. Together, these units assist participants in comprehending and applying diverse modes of theorizing, enabling them to better position their contributions within the literature. We also cover the relationship between theorizing, research design, and methods.

The course is organized in six meetings, divided over two modules. Each meeting consists of an introduction by the lecturer, followed by a close reading of selected texts. Participants prepare weekly discussion sheets for the course. The study load is one day per week. Successful completion of the course will be based on reading, participation in discussions, and the one-page discussion sheets. You are expected to attend all sessions in this course.

The course corresponds to 6 ECTS.

Course dates and time

	DATES	TIME	TEACHER	ROOMS
Meeting 1	Friday 12 April	13:00-15:00	Justus Uitermark	REC-B3.06
Meeting 2	Friday 19 April	13:00-15:00	Justus Uitermark	REC-B2.05
Meeting 3	Friday 26 April	13:00-15:00	Justus Uitermark	REC-B2.07
Meeting 4	Friday 3 May	11:00-13:00	Abbey Steele	REC-B3.03
Meeting 5	Friday 17 May	11:00-13:00	Abbey Steele	REC-B3.03
Meeting 6	Friday 24 May	11:00-13:00	Abbey Steele	REC-B3.03

Workload

6 ECTS

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

Please consider that registration does imply a commitment to full participation to all meetings.

Crash Courses offered by the AISSR (Methods Support)

(Semester I - II)

Methods Support wants to facilitate access to, and training in, methods that match the research goals of our PhD students and staff. We do so through presentations, crash-courses, and by making accessible current expertise on the web.

Methods Support links methodological demand and expertise. The variety of methodological expertise in the AISSR often reflects different ontological and epistemological standpoints. We strive for discussions between these standpoints, pragmatism, and for question-based research.

We do not see methods as inevitably linked to a single ontological or epistemological position, but rather as tools to be used and combined given the research questions to be answered. We stimulate methodological innovation, not for its own sake but related to the substantive content of research projects at hand. Methods Support is not a geek squad, though: if you don't know how to solve your practical problem in Python, R, or ATLAS.ti, follow a course!

In 2023-2024, the AISSR will offer crash courses on various methods, usually half a day for each. The courses will be organized by Jeroen Bruggeman.

If less than four people are interested in a course, we try to direct them to other institutions or we give them personal advice rather than organizing a crash course.

Course dates and time

COURSE	DATE	TIME	TEACHER	ROOM
Complexity Science for the Social Sciences	Wed 17 Jan	13.00-16.00	Jeroen Bruggeman	REC-B3.04

Registration

The courses are for free for AISSR members and open to a limited number of Research Master students and teachers who are not AISSR members. Registration will be final after our confirmation that you can enroll in the course.

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD

To register, please send an e-mail with the listed information to ai SSR@uva.nl.

New crash courses will be organized in the 1st semester of the next academic year (September-January).

GSSS Research Master courses and workshop

(Semester I & II)

The AISSR and GSSS have an agreement regarding the participation of AISSR PhD candidates in courses of the Graduate School of Social Sciences programme's of the University of Amsterdam.

AISSR PhDs may participate in selected courses in all GSSS Master programmes. For each course in the list below there are 3 guaranteed places reserved for AISSR PhDs.

Below you will find a list with all the courses that are available for PhD candidates in the academic year 2023-2024. Please note that registration is organised per semester.

In addition, PhDs may sign up for other master-level courses offered by the GSSS but there are no spots reserved; you'll only be admitted if spaces remain after graduate students signed up. Some of these courses are introductions to disciplines that may be particularly helpful for PhD candidates who are new to their discipline.

All the GSSS courses can be found in our [online course catalogue](#). The course catalogue will provide you with more in-depth information about the course(s) you are interested in. When you visit the course catalogue click on "[course](#)" and search for the course of your interest in the search-bar. Then click on "more information"; here you will find additional information about the objectives, contents, teaching method and contact hours for the course.

Registration

When registering please provide us with:

- Name:
- UvA student ID number
- Supervisor(s):
- Programme group:
- Title of your research project:
- Starting date of your PhD
- Name of the Course
- Course catalogue number

Registration deadlines

Semester 2 Block 4: 26 January 2024

Semester 2 Blocks 5 & 6: 22 March 2024

GSSS Regular Courses

Semester	Block	Progr.	Course name	Course Catalogue	EC	Guaranteed Spots
2	4	RMSS	Design in Quantitative Research	75250088FY	6	3
2	4	RMSS	Interpreting Qualitative Data	7525A036FY	6	3
2	4	RMUS	Introduction to Geographical Information Systems	7515A001FY	6	3
2	4	RMSS	Data and Measurement	75250089FY	6	3
2	4	RMSS	Research skills: Ethnography and Beyond	75250075FY	6	3
2	5	RMUS	Advanced Geographical Information Systems	7515A006FY	6	3
2	5	RMSS	Policy Oriented Research	7525A018IY	6	3
2	5	RMSS	Analysing talk and language: Discourse and Conversation analysis	75250070FY	6	3
2	5	RMSS	Computational Social Science Analysis	75250084FY	6	3
2	5+6	RMSS	Statistical Models in the Social Sciences	75250074IY	9	3
2	5+6	RMSS	Mixed Methods Design and Analysis Course	75250083IY	9	3

GSSS Workshops

Semester	Block	Progr.	Name of the Course	Course Catalogue	EC	Guaranteed Spots
2	4	RMSS	Workshop Atlas.ti	7525W005AY	1	3
2	4	RMSS	Workshop Non-Academic Career Preparation	7525W010AY	1	3
2	4	RMSS	Workshop Self-Care in Academia and beyond	7525W008AY	1	3
2	5	RMSS	Workshop Digital Methods	7525W009AY	1	3
2	5	RMSS	Workshop Research grant politics	7525W001AY	1	3
2	5	RMSS	Workshop Press Releases	7525W006AY	1	3

Workshop offered by the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences

‘Mastering My PhD’ is a programme developed to offer first year’s PhD students guidance and support. It is built on a strong combination of knowledge development, self-awareness and practical applicability. We create the space and opportunity to develop specific skills, to increase awareness in personal needs, strengths and challenges and to create a healthy life balance.

By following this programme PhD students will gain:

- Self-confidence
- Academic and didactic skills
- Personal and professional effectiveness
- Fulfilling their academic roles with more ‘power and pleasure’.
- Developing transferable skills, proven to be influential during an academic career.
- Thrive in their PhD trajectory while enjoying a well-balanced life

The three course days will each have its own theme:

1. Mastering my Life and PhD
2. Work-life balance
3. Effective Communication.

Once you are registered, you are expected to join all three days.

Dates and registration links will be published by the Faculty before 22 December 2023.

VU University – GSSS PhD programme

The AISSR has an agreement with the Graduate School of Social Sciences at the VU University. This entails that AISSR PhDs can participate in courses at VU for free.

Please note that this agreement is limited to the VU-GSSS PhD programme and that participation is only possible if space permits (usually there is a maximum of 15 participants in a course; internal VU PhDs get priority over external participants). This means that if you sign up for a course at VU-GSSS you will first obtain a provisory registration. Ultimately two weeks before the start of a course you will get a definite confirmation that you can participate. If you register at a later date it may not be possible to finalize it.

More information about the courses and how to sign up, can be found through [VU website](#).

AISSR PhD Clubs

The AISSR has several clubs for PhDs. These clubs meet to discuss research plans, design, data, manuscripts, etc. They offer a friendly environment in which to give and receive feedback on research, ideas and papers from a group of peers rather than the supervisory team.

At the same time, these clubs offer an opportunity to learn from fellow PhDs about their research projects and to learn to give constructive feedback. PhDs are highly recommended to take part in one of the AISSR PhD clubs. There might not be a PhD club for your research interest, in that case PhDs are encouraged to start their own PhD club. For information please contact the PhD Coordinator [Simon Cijssouw](#). PhD clubs are not necessarily organized along the lines of the programme groups.

Gender & Sexuality PhD Club

The Gender & Sexuality PhD Club is a monthly interdisciplinary meeting of PhDs who work with gender and/or sexuality, during which we primarily review each other's work. Members of the club come from all disciplines hosted by the AISSR, namely anthropology, geography, international development studies, sociology, and political science.

The topics we study span a wide variety. Examples include the study of gendered protection norms in armed conflict, sexuality in political representation, and women's underrepresentation in organizational authority. Likewise, among us you will find PhDs employing a wide variety of qualitative and quantitative methods and data, such as participant observation, interviews, critical frame and narrative analysis, and quantitative analysis of survey and register data. In cooperation the Amsterdam Centre for Gender and Sexuality (ARC-GS) we organize master classes with visiting scholars and short intensive courses. Interested in joining?

Get in touch with [Sonja Evaldsson Mellström](#).

OLA PhD platform

For PhDs who conduct research in Latin-America and the Caribbean area, please refer to the online [OLA PhD Platform](#).

Quantitative Research on Social Inequalities (QRSI)

We are currently with more than 10 PhDs from different disciplines, most of us do quantitative research on social inequalities in the broadest sense. This means that we discuss a broad variety of topics, such as inequalities in education systems and the labor market, in family and social network structures, in political attitudes and participation, and inequalities between neighborhoods or other geographical inequalities. Anyone who is interested in these, or related topics is welcome to join us. We meet once a month on Tuesdays (13.30-15.00). In our meetings, one of us shortly presents ongoing work, the others have read it in advance and give constructive feedback. It is also possible to give a short presentation on a paper idea or draft and discuss it with the other members.

If you're interested in joining the PhD club, or if you have any questions, please contact [Tobi Sachs](#) or [Viktor Decker](#).

UvA Migration Dialogue (Amsterdam Centre for Migration Research)

The UvA Migration Dialogue provides a platform for early career migration researchers of diverse disciplines, backgrounds and research topics.

Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of UvA at different levels of research and academic career progress are invited to join the community to share knowledge of migration theory and methods and have access to original discussions on conceptual and empirical contributions in migration studies. Advanced master's students with experience conducting migration-related research projects are also welcome to join the circle.

Together, we scrutinise migration-related contemporary political and socio-economic issues and decolonial and postcolonial inequalities and challenges. We aim to provide a platform for researchers of all backgrounds and identities to explore critical topics at the intersections of migration, governance, race, gender, human rights, and more.

We organise monthly sessions. To become a member of the Migration Dialogue group at UvA and to receive the event announcements, write to us at: migrationdialogue@uva.nl

Fieldwork related PhD clubs (Department of Anthropology)

In the department of Anthropology two PhD Clubs are organised by staff members and the participating PhDs together. The *pre-fieldwork PhD Club* is a place where PhDs share their work in progress and it aims to support PhDs personally as well as in writing the 8-th months paper. The process of the writing; topics related to Anthropological theory; or the upcoming fieldwork will be discussed during the meetings. The post- and in-between fieldwork PhD Club supports PhD candidates who are doing fieldwork or are in the phase of the writing of their PhD dissertation.

Here topics are discussed that support the work that people are doing, and own work can be shared and discussed. Regularly other staff members join in to guide a meeting on a specific topic of common interest. The two Anthropology Clubs meet on a monthly basis.

Interested in joining? Get in touch with PhD Mentor [Marieke Brand](#).

AISSR Short Intensive Courses

In case you cannot find the course that you are looking for, you might want to create your own 'Short Intensive Course'! Short Intensive Courses (SICs) are initiated, developed and organized by PhDs themselves with support of the AISSR Bureau. The aim of a SIC is to bring PhD candidates from various programme groups together to jointly discuss key methodological, theoretical or other academic related work. We are open to receive ideas for SICs and can support you with working out your ideas into a SIC proposal.

Ideas need to be submitted before **19-01-2024**, but please also share your SIC ideas with the PhD Coordinator after this date. Then we still can see if it is possible to organize your SIC at a later moment.

Examples of previous SICs include:

- Globalisation, Crisis and Insecurity
- Rethinking Norbert Elias
- Migration, Medicine and Reproductive Insecurity
- Visual Methods
- Decision-making under Information Uncertainty, from Perception to Action
- The Body and Technology
- Human Rights: Activism and Site-Specific Research
- The coexistence of the living and the non-living in the city

There are a few requirements for SICs when applying for AISSR funding:

- There needs to be a minimal amount of people participating, at least 6 PhDs or staff members, preferably from different disciplines. The commitment of these people needs to be clearly stated;
- Non-AISSR participants are only allowed when the minimum requirement of 8 AISSR participants is reached. Please note that this is and should be an AISSR activity, so the majority of participants should always be from the AISSR. Costs for non-AISSR PhDs are usually around € 250 depending on SIC and budget;
- If fulfilled, one can get ECTS points for the course. The points will depend on the duration and reading requirements of the SIC. Literature: 10 pages per hour;
- Twice a year the AISSR circulates a call to submit a proposal for a SIC in the next semester. The proposal should include: structured proposal with education targets, educational tools, methodology, content, participants, budget indication. Proposal may not exceed 2 pages and can be send to the [AISSR Secretariat](mailto:aissr@uva.nl) (aissr@uva.nl).