



The University of Western Ontario

**SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM  
MA Sociological Research Practicum  
Winter 2025**

**Select Thursdays  
12:30pm-1:30pm  
SSC 5235**

**Professor Yoko Yoshida**

Office Hours: Wednesday, 11am-1:pm  
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## **Course Description**

This research writing seminar will guide students in the three-term research paper MA stream through the various stages of completing research and writing research papers. Topics of focus will include formulating research questions and hypotheses, locating and selecting data and literature sources, conducting and writing reviews of the literature, and writing about one's findings.

We will meet 6 times during winter term. Many sessions may be structured in part like a workshop, where selected students will present their work in progress for peer feedback.

## **Expectations**

To meet the requirements of the MA Sociological Research Practicum program milestone, students must attend at least 80% of the scheduled sessions. This practicum is designed to complement the Professionalization Seminar (which MA students are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially the two scheduled for January in the course schedule below), students' coursework (especially their research methods courses), and the advice and mentorship from their supervisors.

## **Materials**

For some sessions, I may assign short chapters or articles to help frame the topic of discussion. These will be distributed well in advance of a given meeting.

## Course Schedule

- 1      Jan. 9      Professionalization Seminar: Publishing  
*This initial session and the next start with the “big picture”—what is the ultimate goal for our original research? We’ll take advantage of the first two Professionalization Seminar sessions to think about the end product of our MRPs: published work and presentations.*
- 2      Jan. 23      Professionalization Seminar: Presenting your work
- 3      Jan. 30      Practicum, session 1: Formulating research questions and hypotheses
- 4      Feb. 13      Practicum, session 2: Writing about your data
- 5      Mar. 13      Practicum, session 3: Conducting and writing literature reviews
- 6      Apr. 3      Practicum, session 4: Writing about your findings