

FASS METHODS AND SKILLS WORKSHOP

FOR TEXT – BASED
GRADUATE RESEARCH
2025 PROGRAMME

Modules take place
on Thursdays



MODULE 1: METHODS & THEORY,

THURS 6 MARCH 9.00 – 12.00

Welcome & Introduction: 9.00 – 9.10: Dr Candice Steele, Manager of Graduate School and Dr Samantha Masters (workshop coordinator).

Part 1: 9.10 – 10.15: Theory, Method and Methodology – Conceptualizing a Postgraduate Study. (Dr Chet Fransch, History)

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Theory in Practice: Conceptualizing my study. (A practical workshop facilitated by Dr Chet Fransch, History). In this session you will be expected to think about how your proposed study fuses theory, methods and methodology, if applicable.

MODULE 2: WAYS OF ENGAGING WITH THE TEXT,

THURS 13 MAR 9.00 – 12.00

Part 1: 9.00 – 10.15: Ways of engaging with the text: the example of short prose fiction (Dr Nwabisa Bangeni, English)

Preparatory task: I will demonstrate some narrative theory by drawing on a short story, which I would like you to read before this session: Ifeakandu's "God's Children are Little Broken Things".

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Ways of engaging with the text: the example of life-writing (Dr Eric Levéel, Modern Foreign Languages)

MODULE 3: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WRITING 1,

THURS 20 MAR 9.00 – 12.00

Part 1: 9.00 – 10.15: Tackling procrastination & developing strategies of getting down to writing: There are all sorts of challenges when it comes to academic writing and in this session, we will have a discussion on what is needed to succeed.

(Dr Amanda Marais, Afrikaans & Dutch)

Preparatory task: Think about your own way of writing: What do you actually do when you have to write? Do you plan at all? Do you edit your first draft? Make a short list of your own writing habits.

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Crafting a writing community: This session considers how to develop a narrative voice distinct from, but complementary to, the texts you engage with. Although originality is important in academic writing, it is equally important to recognize the ways in which research narratives develop in conversation with those of others working in related fields. Today, we look at various strategies for crafting a writing community. (Prof Sally Ann Murray, English)

NB: 2 week break because of graduation week and vacation

MODULE 4: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WRITING 2,

THURS 10 APRIL 9.00 – 12.00

Part 1: 9.00 – 10.15: Literature review & how to engage with secondary sources in relation to one's own voice (Dr Daniel Roux, English)

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Ethics of immersive research and working on, with and writing about sensitive material (Dr Lauren van der Rede, English) & **Ethics clearance application process** (Prof Nadia Sanger, English)

MODULE 5: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WRITING 3,

THURS 17 APR 9.00 – 12.00

Part 1: 9.00 – 10.15: Sources and their evaluation (critical thinking, credibility, and "grey" literature) Finding reliable and credible sources is an important ongoing process that enhances the quality of your research. The sources inform your research problem and questions, choice of theoretical perspective and method. In this session we will look at strategies for finding, evaluating and using a variety of types of sources in order to keep your project relevant, contextualized, critical and reliable. (Dr Samantha Masters, Ancient Studies and Dr Francois van Schalkwyk, CREST)

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Working with primary and secondary sources in translation: some considerations (Mr Marius Swart, Afrikaans & Dutch)

MODULE 6: DIGITAL HUMANITIES,

THURS 24 APRIL 9.00 – 12.00

Part 1: 9.00 – 10.15: Digital humanities: Atlas.ti in practice (Dr Susann Louw, Afrikaans & Dutch)

This workshop will provide an overview to ATLAS.ti and how it can be helpful to your research. I will cover some difficulties in using ATLAS.ti and discuss practical examples.

Tea Break: 10.15 – 10.30

Part 2: 10.30 – 11.45: Digital humanities: Atlas.ti in practice cont.

Preparatory task: Reflect on the following questions: What type of texts will I investigate? And how will I source these documents? Is ATLAS.ti the qualitative data analysis programme for you?

Conclusion: Dr Candice Steele, Manager of Graduate School and Dr Samantha Masters