This seminar offers students the opportunity to put their understanding of social and policy research into practice. The seminar sessions will revolve around discussions of student projects and the practical issues of research. Two books have been ordered that can serve as resources for this seminar and future work:

Howard Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists*
Lawrence Locke, et al., *Proposals that Work*

Seminar members will be asked to do the following:

A) Complete a critical literature review, define a research question or questions based in that literature, develop an appropriate methodology, and do a reconnaissance of the data source(s). You will present your proposal at a poster session on December 8, open to other students and faculty.

B) Prepare a Human Subjects Review application if appropriate for your paper.

C) Present a 10-12 minute summary of another seminar member’s research proposal to the class. In other words, your research needs to be clear enough that someone else can easily grasp and explain it. This will develop out of discussions in small groups into which the seminar members will be divided.

(D) Attend some sessions of the Social Science History Association, meeting in Portland on November 3-5 and critique one or more of the papers at the next class session.

Developing a research proposal is fundamentally an individual effort, but we all benefit from bouncing our ideas off of others. We’ll therefore divide the seminar members into two or more small groups where you can share your ideas and offer constructive suggestions.
Schedule

Sept. 29  Where do research ideas come from? . . . What’s your topic?
Oct.  6  Writing: (1) Just do it . . . and then revise . . . and revise . . .
         (2) The process of scholarly publication
Oct. 13  (no class session . . . meet in small groups sometime during this week)
Oct. 20 What is your scholarly conversation
Oct. 27 (no class session)
Nov.  3  Social Science History Association meeting in Portland
Nov. 10  Critique and discussion of SSHA papers
Nov. 17  Other people’s research proposals
Nov. 24  Thanksgiving: University Closed
Dec.  1  (no class session/time for frantic preparation)
Dec.  8  Presentations