Writing Questions: Assignment

This week’s homework has a number of separate steps. Do the first two steps first, so that we can get the questions put up in time for you to read and critique them.

1. Read Bernard ch. 9 (questionnaires)

2. Write approximately 8 questions on the general topic we decide on in class (this can include background questions). We decided to interview about global warming (peoples’ attitudes and/or behavior and/or knowledge of the subject). The questions should be suitable for a structured interview. Review the readings and notes to make sure that the questions are well-constructed. Try to keep them simple, avoid leading questions and double-barrelled questions.

If the questions are motivated by a hypothesis (which I always encourage) indicate the hypothesis before the question. Exploratory questions are fine too.

Upload your questions to the google group

fieldmethods_2015

by Friday. Email me if there are problems, or if you did not receive an invitation to this group.

3. Read all of ch. 11 (scaling).

4. Develop a scale to measure something related to this topic. It should have more than one indicator, but don’t make it long. The aim is to help you think about, hence remember, what you read. We will not be using the scale.

4. Review the chapter on sampling and think about how we should choose subjects for this project. Assume you will interview people on campus.

5. Write a critique of the class questions and submit to turnitin with your scale. Upload the scale and the critique as a single file.

Don’t comment on every question, just those you think can be improved. Explain the problem and re-write the question and make it better. Maximum 2 pages, but 1 should be enough.