



Giovedì 13 maggio 2021 ore 9-11

In diretta streaming al link: <https://unito.webex.com/meet/valeria.quaglia>

Il Corso di Laurea magistrale in Sociologia  
presenta:

## **Fare ricerca al tempo della pandemia**

**Using archival data in social  
sciences: An introduction and  
methodological framework**

**Prof. Krzysztof Krakowski**

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Il Corso di Laurea magistrale in Sociologia propone il ciclo di incontri “Fare ricerca al tempo della pandemia” in cui verranno presentati alle/agli student\* strumenti utili per poter condurre ricerche empiriche cercando superare gli ostacoli che la situazione di emergenza sanitaria ci impone.

In this class, we will discuss the use of archival sources in social science research. Archival data has been traditionally linked to historical research. Yet, in the last decade, sociologists, political scientists, and economists made extensive use of archival data in both quantitative and qualitative studies. We will discuss the advantages of using archival data in the times of global pandemic and review practical steps of accessing and preparing archival data for social science research. We will also present two illustrations from existing research on how archival data has been recently used in recent sociological studies. One example will come from a study of Martin Luther’s personal correspondence, showing what we can learn from Luther’s letters about the early networks of Protestantism in Germany and the spread of this religious doctrine across Europe. The second example will come from a study of anti-regime protests amid secret police surveillance in Communist Poland. This study relies on declassified secret police reports, archival administrative data, and memoirs of anti-Communist dissidents. Importantly, many of the archival data that can be used by social scientists are accessible online. Archival sources thus offer a convenient alternative for researchers and students who are currently unable to engage in other forms of data collection due to the pandemic-related restrictions.