CSSS 594 / SOC 590 (Special Topics):

Power, Privilege, and Statistics

Winter 2026 | Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20pm

Instructor: **Professor Sasha Johfre**, Assistant Professor of Sociology & CSSS

Course description:

Quantitative methods can be rigorous and beautiful ways to learn about the social world. Yet, the positioning of statistical analysis as the epitome of discovery is based on inaccurate understandings of social and scientific processes. This PhD-level course contextualizes contemporary statistical methods within broader epistemological and sociological perspectives on ways to learn about and change the social world. Students in this class will gain literacy in conducting and evaluating research in more socially and scientifically responsible ways.

Example topics covered:

- The social construction of reality
- The history of social statistics
- Measurement and motivation
- Centering values in research questions
- Rigorous scientific methods with and without statistics

Course elements:

- Multidisciplinary student group
- Student-led discussion of key topics
- Bi-weekly application assignments invite students to apply course topics to their own research

Prereq: SOC 504 or equivalent

Interested? Register for CSSS 594 or SOC 590, or contact Sasha Johfre at sjohfre@uw.edu.