



Lancaster University  
Law School



**Pre Conference ‘Constructivist Grounded Theory’ Workshop by Kathy Charmaz  
(2 and 3 July, Lancaster University, UK)**

Kathy Charmaz will give a two-day workshop on **Constructivist Grounded Theory** on the Monday and Tuesday before the annual (Couch-Stone) SSSI conference in Lancaster at the Lancaster University (UK). The conference will be a combined effort of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI) and European SSSI. The title of the conference is *‘Whose side are we on?’ Power, Stigma, Transgression and Exclusion in Everyday Life*. See for more information our website: <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/sssi2018/>.

**A brief description of the Constructivist Grounded Theory Workshop by Kathy Charmaz**

Grounded theory expedites your work, extends its conceptual reach and power, and enriches your research experience. This workshop gives you a guided tour through grounded theory strategies with stops along the way for you to apply what you are learning. I will compare earlier versions of grounded theory with the constructivist revision and show why the latter fits symbolic interactionism. I treat grounded theory as a set of flexible guidelines to adopt, apply, and alter to fit specific research problems, not to apply mechanically. Using grounded theory helps you conduct systematic research and, moreover, construct fresh ideas about your data. The sessions cover an overview of basic guidelines and hands-on exercises. I will offer tips about data gathering, reflexivity, and raising the conceptual level of your analysis. We will discuss relationships between qualitative coding, developing analytic categories and generating theory and will attend to specific grounded theory strategies of coding, memo-writing, theoretical

sampling, and using comparative methods. You will receive guided practice in using each analytic step of the grounded theory method.

If you have started a qualitative research project, do plan to bring some data to work on for most of the exercises. If you do not have data, we will supply qualitative data for you. If you prefer to use a laptop for writing, bring one, but you can complete the exercises without a computer. We will send you instructions on exactly what to bring before the workshop. No prior experience with grounded theory or in-depth knowledge of symbolic interactionism is required for this workshop. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will start with the basics and move through the process. And we will have loads of fun as we proceed! *Constructivist grounded theory makes your work exciting and enjoyable!*

### **Registration and accommodation**

It is possible to attend the workshop without participating in the conference. The fee for the workshop is £250 for PhD-students, for members £ 300, for non-members £ 350, and for academics from emerging economies £ 150. This includes dinners, lunches and coffee and juice. Accommodation on campus is available. The hotel rooms are around £85 a night ( \$ 112) (book on time, <http://englishlakes.co.uk/lancaster-house/>) and Bed and Breakfast Accommodation in Lancaster University Halls is around £ 48 (\$ 63) a night. (see <https://www.conferences.lancs.ac.uk/bedandbreakfast/> use Promo code LAW18 in the Promo Box). There are also plenty options for accommodation in and around Lancaster. My favourite one is hotel The Sun, <https://www.thesunhotelandbar.co.uk/>) There are direct (intercontinental) flights to Manchester and Glasgow with an easy train connection to Lancaster.

I am not a list fetishist, but Lancaster University is nominated as the Sunday Times university of the year and is ranked as the number seven UK university. Our sociology department is number three in the UK ranking and, by the way, my section, Criminology, is number 1 in the UK ranking.

For more information and registration for the workshop and/or the conference, go to our website and click on registration and programme: <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/ssi2018/>

Thaddeus Müller, Vice President SSSI (t.muller@lancaster.ac.uk).