

**LIBRARY TUTORIAL**  
**Evaluating an Article from a Peer-Reviewed Journal as an Acceptable Source for**  
**Dr. Gloria Gadsden's Course Assignments**

Dr. Gadsden has a list of criteria for what makes a sources acceptable on the “Acceptable & Unacceptable Sources for Papers and Presentations” document. This document states that acceptable sources include articles from academic *social science peer-reviewed journals*” and that “social science disciplines, for Gadsden’s courses, include: sociology, criminal justice (permission needed), anthropology, communication studies, criminology, cultural studies, economics, human geography, political science and social psychology. **Not** law reviews, law journals, social work journals, medical journals and psychology/psychiatry journals.”

This guide from Highlands University Libraries will provide more guidance on how to determine if an article is an acceptable source for course projects. Searching for articles within subject specific databases such as SocINDEX and Criminal Justice Abstracts will bring up articles from acceptable social science journals and not acceptable journals from fields such as social work and law.

**Evaluation Method 1: Determine if the journal in which the article appears is a social science journal as defined for Dr. Gadsden’s course.**

You can often determine if an academic journal is from an acceptable discipline from the journal title, but when you need more information about the journal you can find it through the library databases and the journal’s website.

*Journal Information from a Library Database*

Below is a record for a journal article from the SocINDEX with Full Text database. To get more information about the journal, click on the article title to bring up the Detailed Record.



1. **Tension in the Field of Art: The Practical Tattoo Artist and Perceptions of the Fine Art Community.**

By: Hall, Gregory M. *Qualitative Sociology Review*. Apr2014, Vol. 10 Issue 2, p102-114. 13p.

**Subjects:** Arts & society; Stress (Psychology); Tattooing -- Social aspects; **Tattoo artists**; Gender identity in art

 [PDF Full Text](#) (1.1 MB)

Next click on the hyperlinked journal title in the **Source:** field to bring up more information about the journal.



**Tension in the Field of Art: The Practical Tattoo Artist and Perceptions of the Fine Art Community.**

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**Authors:** [Hall, Gregor, M.<sup>1</sup>](#) [gmhall@buffalo.edu](mailto:gmhall@buffalo.edu)

**Source:** [Qualitative Sociology Review](#). Apr2014, Vol. 10 Issue 2, p102-114. 13p.

**Document Type:** Article

The **Publication Details** for the journal will state the **Subjects** of the journal and give a **Description**. Both of these fields will give you more information about whether or not the journal is from a social science discipline.

Publication Details For "Qualitative Sociology Review"	
<b>Title:</b>	Qualitative Sociology Review
<b>ISSN:</b>	1733-8077
<b>Publisher Information:</b>	Qualitative Sociology Review Lodz University, Faculty of Economics & Sociology Institute of Sociology, Sociology of Organization & Management Dept, Rewolucji 1005 r. Nr 41/43 90-214 Lodz Poland
<b>Bibliographic Records:</b>	08/01/2005 to present
<b>Full Text:</b>	<a href="#">08/01/2006 to present</a>
<b>Publication Type:</b>	Academic Journal
<b>Subjects:</b>	Sociology
<b>Description:</b>	Empirical, theoretical and methodological articles applicable to all fields within sociology.
<b>Publisher URL:</b>	<a href="http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/index_eng.php">http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/index_eng.php</a>
<b>Frequency:</b>	3
<b>Peer Reviewed:</b>	Yes

### Journal Information from the Journal or Publisher Website

Journal and publisher websites can also provide you with information about whether or not a journal is from a social science discipline. On a journal webpage look for a section titled "Aims & Scope," "About This Journal," or "Description" for this information. Some journals include articles from multiple disciplines including social science disciplines and non-social science disciplines.

The screenshot shows the journal's website with the following details:

- JOURNAL:** Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour
- Vol 47 (4 Issues in 2017)
- Edited by: Alex Gillespie & Doug Porpora
- Print ISSN: 0021-8308
- Online ISSN: 1468-5914
- Impact Factor: 1.304

Below the details is a "Visit Wiley Online Library" button and a "LEARN MORE" button. There are also logos for "Norton" and "WILEY".

**Wiley Authenticity Guarantee**  
Books supplied direct from Wiley.com are 100% authentic, 100% brand new, and 100% Wiley - the trusted publisher of academic, scientific, and professional books since 1807.

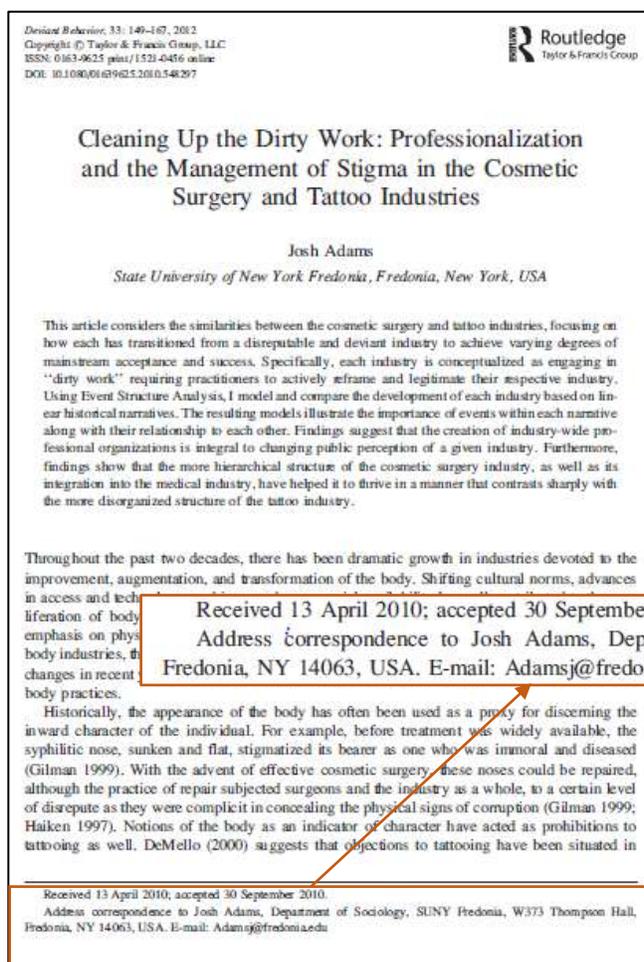
**Description**  
Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour advances understandings of social behaviour, that is, people acting in relation to, or being constituted through, the social world of other people, institutions, and material and symbolic culture.  
The Journal aims to challenge theoretical assumptions, stimulate the development of new and productive theoretical approaches, and translate those advances into innovative methods for research.  
Any discipline or approach that contributes to the Journal's aim is welcome. Disciplines frequently represented include psychology, sociology, philosophy, communication studies, and anthropology.

For example, the *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* description states, "any discipline or approach that contributes to the Journal's aim is welcome. Disciplines frequently represented include psychology, sociology, philosophy, communication studies, and anthropology." Therefore articles from this journal come from social science perspectives and non-social science perspectives. In order to determine if an article from this journal will come from a social science perspective you can look at author information. See Method 2 for how to find author information.

**Method 2: If journal information is inconclusive as to whether or not an article is from a social science perspective, you can also use author(s) information to determine if an article is an acceptable source or not. Author information will tell you if the researcher is from a social science discipline.**

You can gather information about the author(s) and his or her discipline from the article itself. Below is a citation for an article where it is unclear from the journal title, *Deviant Behavior*, if it is a social science peer-reviewed journal or not.

Adams, J. (2012). Cleaning Up the Dirty Work: Professionalization and the Management of Stigma in the Cosmetic Surgery and Tattoo Industries. *Deviant Behavior*, 33(3), 149-167. doi:10.1080/01639625.2010.548297



In this example article, you can tell by the correspondence information at the bottom of the page that the author is with the Department of Sociology at SUNY Fredonia. The university's webpage confirms that the author is an assistant professor of sociology.

This information typically appears at the bottom of the first page of an article or immediately before or after the references at the end of the article.

*Need further assistance? Please contact the library at 505-454-3401 or libinfo@nmhu.edu.*