

MET910C Research Design and Qualitative Methods (5 ECTS)

Monday 5 – Friday 9 October 2020, Room 417

Course responsible: Trine Anker

| | Monday 5 Oct. 2020 | Tuesday 6. Oct. 2020 | Wednesday 7 Oct. 2020 | Thursday 8 Oct. 2020 | Friday 9 Oct. 2020 |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 0915-1030 Presentation, questions/ discussions (75 min) | Research Design – how to frame your project Qualitative research strategies: Case studies, action research, grounded theory and ethnography Geir Afdal Trine Anker | Interviews how to do it Participant observation – Shadowing... Tone S. Kaufman Plus one more | Who do you discuss with and what is your contribution? Literature review - what is it and how to do it? Marielle Stigum Gleiss | Photo-elicitation, virtual interviews, café-table... Digital ethnography Mona Abdel-Fadil | Mixed methods: Quantitative methods and Quantitative aspects to Qualitative designs and research Torgeir Sørensen |
| 1045-1200 Presentation, questions/ discussions (75 min) | How to draw a research design Work with your own research design Geir Afdal Trine Aker | Interviews how to do it Participant observation – Shadowing... Tone S. Kaufman Plus one more | Help to do search for a review article / former research chapter (Library) | Positionality and public engagement - Who am I as a researcher? Merethe Skårås & Maren Seehawer | The students present their drawing of their research designs Discussion of “What I have learnt and what I still struggle with” Geir Afdal and Trine Anker |
| <i>Lunchtime 45 min.</i> | <i>Lunch can be bought in MF's canteen.</i> | <i>Lunch can be bought in MF's canteen.</i> | <i>Lunch can be bought in MF's canteen.</i> | <i>Lunch can be bought in MF's canteen.</i> | Evaluation (12.30) Trine Anker |
| 1245-1400 | Short papers on research design – discuss in groups | Independent work and testing out some methods for data construction | Work with your own review | Writing time - extended paper | |
| 1400-1500 | Short papers on research design – discuss in groups | The students present challenges with the methods | The students present ideas for a review article / former research part Marielle Stigum Gleiss | Writing time - extended paper | |

About the course

This course is an initial PhD-course in Qualitative Empirical Methods: *Research Design and Methods* (MET910C). The course will now go more directly and deeply into the practice and challenges of the individual projects of the participating PhD-candidates, and offer a helpful forum of learning. Precluded by some lectures from experience, the course will function as PhD-supervision in group. It will be 'hands-on'. The combination of rather fresh and some more established PhD-projects is interesting and fruitful.

Application to attend should be sent as soon as possible to: nils.a.rosag@mf.no

Deadline for registration for the course: 30 August 2020

Deadline for submission of sort papers/ abstracts: 20 September 2020

Deadline for submission of final written course paper: 15 November 2020

Literature

The main book for the course is Denzin, Norman K. & Lincoln, Yvonna S. (eds.) *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research* (fifth edition). Los Angeles: Sage. We recommend you to buy the book.

Read the following articles from *Sage Handbook*:

5. Lincoln, Yvonna S., Lynham, Susan A. & Guba, Egon G (2018). Paradigmatic Controversies, Contradictions and Emerging Confluences, Revisited. (p. 108-150)
- 6-10. Select two out of these five articles (Olesen, DeVault, Donner & Gladson-Billings, Kovach, Kincheloe et.al)
11. Saukko, Paula. Methodologies for Cultural and Social Studies in an Age of New Technologies. (p. 261-274)
14. Schwandt, Thomas A. & Gates, Emily F. Case Study Methodology (p. 341-358)

15. Hamera, Judith. Performance Ethnography. (p. 359-376)
23. Torre, María Elene et. al. Observation in a Surveilled World (p. 526-545)
26. Brinkmann, Svend. The Interview. (576-599)
27. Margolis, Eric & Zunjarwad. Visual Research (600-626)
29. Markham, Annette N. Ethnography in Digital Internet Era: From Fields to Flows, Descriptions to Interventions. (650-668)
31. Kamberelis, George et. al. Focus Group Research and/in Figures worlds (p. 692-716)
33. Wyatt, Jonathan. Creating a Space in Between: Collaborative Inquiries. (p. 738-756)
34. Torrance, Harry. Evidence, Criteria, Policy, and Politics: The Debate About Quality and Utility in Educational and Social Research. (p. 766-795)
40. Spooner, Marc. Qualitative Research and Global Audit Culture: The Politics of Productivity, Accountability and Possibility (p. 894-914)
41. Westbrook, David A. Critical Issues for Qualitative Research (p. 915-922)

In addition to the articles in *Sage Handbook* you shall read articles for the specific lectures:

For Tuesday:

King, E. (2009). From Data Problems to Data Points: Challenges and Opportunities of Research in Postgenocide Rwanda. *African Studies Review*, 52(3), 127-148. doi:10.2307/20638953

For Wednesday:

Kamler, B., & Thomson, P. (2014). Helping doctoral students write: pedagogies for supervision (2nd ed.) (p. 30-48) London: Routledge.

For Thursday:

Smith, L. T. (1999). Introduction. In: L.T. Smith: Decolonizing methodologies: Research and indigenous Peoples. London, UK: Zed. (p. 1 - 19).

For Friday:

Sørensen, Torgeir, Lars Lien, Jostein Holmen & Lars Johan Danbolt (2012): Distribution and understanding of items of religiousness in the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study, Norway, *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 15:6, 571-585

Sørensen, Torgeir, Peter la Cour, Lars Johan Danbolt, Hans Stifoss-Hanssen, Lars Lien, Valerie DeMarinis, Heidi Frølund Pedersen & Tatjana Schnell (2018): The Sources of Meaning and Meaning in Life Questionnaire in the Norwegian Context: Relations to Mental Health, Quality of Life, and Self-Efficacy, *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, DOI: 10.1080/10508619.2018.1547614

Work requirements for the PhD-course

The following common course requirements must all be met to obtain 5 ECTS/stp:

1. Participation/ Attendance

Participation in the course is over the course days. Participants are required to attend 75 % of the course. Valid absence must be documented and cannot be more than 25 %.

2. Evaluation

Participation in the evaluation of academic courses if the course is made subject to evaluation in the current semester. The evaluation may be given in electronic quest-back or in another form, and it must be answered by the given deadline.

3. Reading

It is expected that participants are familiar with the chosen and suggested course literature before the course starts.

4. Short paper

Participants must submit a short paper *before* the course, within the scope of maximum 1000 words.

This short paper should have the title “*My research project: How to do it and why I do it?*”

The short paper should deal with the focus areas of the empirical research process: research design, constituting data/material, research strategy and methods.

5. Student participation

The students will be actively involved in the course. You will be introduced to different tasks to experience methods and be able to discuss this theoretically. You will also take part in group sessions based on the short papers submitted before the course starts. During these sessions you will receive feedback on your short papers. You will also comment on other students' short papers. You must therefore read all the short papers from your respective group in preparation for the course. The short papers will be distributed by email.

6. Language

The papers should preferably be written in English if there, but may be written in Norwegian if so desired. The conversation language of the course however is English, unless only Norwegian speaking people are present.

7. Final course paper

In order to obtain 5 ECT, you have to submit a final course paper (3000-4000 words) after the course. This paper shall include your project design and a discussion of the design. You have to include references to relevant course literature. The written paper will be assessed according to the outcomes described in the PhD-programs at MF.

8. Course credits

If all the other requirements are met, but the final paper is not submitted within the deadline, only 2,5 ECTS will be credited.

MET910C Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: Designing Research and Constituting Data

Course leader: Assigned professor, and colleagues

ECTS (credit points): 5

Study programme: PhD programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

MET910C is an elective course. Its main objective is a broad orientation in current qualitative methodological paradigms, their possibilities, and presuppositions, in order to enable the doctoral student to substantiate and argue for the research design and the methodological and theoretical approaches in the thesis. The course enables the doctoral student to apply theoretical and methodological insights from existing research to the creative work with one's own PhD projects. The PhD student shall also be able to reflect on issues of the sociology of research connected to the disciplines.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND AIM

The course addresses common challenges related to the design of empirical research projects and the process of constituting data and discusses how these can be dealt with in empirical PhD projects. The course focuses on practical work with PhD projects, such as research design, the connection between data and theory, formal matters, research ethics etc. It will provide insights into topics such as research interviews, observation, document studies, ethnography and surveys. It will also sketch possibilities for the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods (mixed method), and discuss comparative methods.

Knowledge

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- Good knowledge of empirical/ social science research design and methodology relevant to the PhD research project and its thesis
- Good knowledge of qualitative methods for the collecting and analysis of data
- Basic knowledge about quantitative methods and its relevance for qualitative projects
- Knowledge of how empirical/ social science methods can be applied and are applied in various studies

Skills

The course will provide the PhD Candidate with

- The ability to reflect on the use of empirical methods in his or her own PhD research project.

- The ability to discuss research design including methods and strategies for the project.
- The ability to discuss issues related to research ethics

MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Discussion
- Practical tasks
- Panels/Work groups

The course is normally offered every fall term, with seminars of three days' length, approximately 6 hours per day.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the course seminar (min. 75 %)
- Submit a draft (max 1000 words) for a course paper before the course
- Submit a final version of the course paper (3500 -4000 words) within three weeks after the course
- Participate in the evaluation of the course, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term

FINAL ASSESSMENT

The final assessment for this course is based on the fulfillment of all course requirements. The course is graded 'passed'/'not passed'.

LITERATURE

A selection of literature on approximately 400 pages will be set up prior to each course, at least two months before. The literature is to be read before the start of the course.