

Qualitative researching and critical inquiry

- On generating, analysing and critically assessing qualitative data

Dates: TBA

Course code: SOS9002

Number of points: 10 ECTs including essay

Campus: Bodø

Course start: TBA

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Applicants must be admitted to a PhD-program.

Faculty: Associate Professor Berit Irene Vannebo, Nord University,
Professor Johans Tveit Sandvin, Nord University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Introduction

Qualitative research has won terrain in recent decades, much due to a social world that is increasingly thought to be complex and multi-dimensional. Hence, today, most social science study programs offers courses in qualitative, as well as quantitative method, both at bachelor and masters level. Nevertheless, there is a tendency to perceive qualitative method as less systematic and rigorous - less methodical - than quantitative method.

What distinguishes qualitative and quantitative research is first and foremost that they are designed to answer different types of questions. The requirements for thoroughness are equally strict in qualitative as in quantitative methods, but the procedures are different and more open to adaptation to the field and phenomenon under study.

The course provides an advanced and critical introduction to different designs and methodologies in qualitative research, as well as to the justifications and degrees of leeway of different designs. Focusing on interviews, documents and field observation as sources for generating empirical data (and their possible combinations), the course pays particular attention to the specific properties of such data, and its implications for analyses.

The course is organized into two workshops, in which the first (in November) is largely based on thematic lectures and seminar discussions, while the second (in January) is devoted to the presentation and discussion of student papers.

Learning outcomes:

These are the following learning outcomes expected upon completion of the course.

Knowledge

After completing the course, students should have gained advanced knowledge about:

- The legacy of qualitative research methods
- The theoretical justification of qualitative research
- The properties of qualitative data
- Applicable methods to analyse different qualitative material

Skills

After completing the course, students should have advanced their ability:

- To design qualitative inquiries suitable to answer different qualitative questions
- To justify the methodological choices made in qualitative designs
- To generate and arrange different types of qualitative data material
- To analyse different types of qualitative data in ways that fit the purpose of the study

General competence

After completing the course, students should have advanced their ability:

- To plan, perform and explain qualitative research
- To participate in and contribute to academic discussions in qualitative research
- To review and critically assess the quality of qualitative inquiries

Content

This course will address the following areas:

- The evolution of qualitative research
- The methodological basis for qualitative research
- The types and character of qualitative data
- The critical elements of qualitative designs
- The performance of qualitative analysis
- Critically scrutinizing and evaluating qualitative data
- The quality assessment of qualitative inquiries

Reading list:

Flyvbjerg, Bent (2006). Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, vol. 12, nor. 2. (35 pages) <http://qix.sagepub.com/content/12/2/219.abstract>

Hammersley, Martyn (2007). The issue of quality in qualitative research. *International Journal of Research & Methods in Education*. Vol. 30, No. 3. (22 pages)

Reed, Isaac (2011). "Knowledge", chapter 1 in *Interpretation and Social Knowledge: On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Schwandt, Tomas (2007). *The SAGE Dictionary of Qualitative Inquiry*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications (The terms; Generalization, Reliability and Validity – 7 pages)

Silverman, David (ed.) (2016). *Qualitative Research*. 4. Edition. London: Sage. Pars I, II, III, IV, VII and VIII. (305 pages)

Silverman, David.(2017). How was it for You? The Interview Society and the rise of the (poorly analyzed) interview. *Qualitative Research*

Yin, Robert K. (2018). *Case study research and applications: design and methods*. 6. Edition. London: Sage. Chapter 1-2. (50 pages)

Weinberg, Darin (ed.) (2002). *Qualitative Research Methods*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. Chapter. (328 pages)

