

Mètodes Qualitatius per a la Recerca en Ciències Socials**2014/2015**

Code: 42409

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313784 Estudis Interdisciplinaris en Sostenibilitat Ambiental, Econòmica i Social	OT	0	1

Contact

Name: Isabelle Michele Sophie Anguelovski

Email: Isabelle.Anguelovski@uab.cat

Use of languages

Principal working language: anglès (eng)

Some groups entirely in English: No

Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes

Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

If not native English speaker: valid IELTS (with a minimum score of 6.5) or TOEFL (minimum 550 paper based, 213 computer based, 79 web-based) score report or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English or Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English.

The students must hold an undergraduate degree with relevance to environmental or urban studies. Preferably with previous training in a social science (i.e., business, sociology, political science, economics)

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course develops core skills in research design, guides students through the logic of the research enterprise, and provides them with the analytical, methodological, technological tools necessary to conduct qualitative research in the social sciences. Throughout the course, we move from the conceptual and epistemological aspects of research design (including research question and literature review), the development of research methods, ethics, data collection techniques and skills, to data processing and analysis, and writing and presentation of research results.

Students will be able to explain the purpose of their research, design a qualitative study, gain access to the data, prepare field work select the most appropriate sources of information (interviews, observations, participant observation, ethnography, visual records, biographical and autobiographical material, texts from the Internet), take detailed field notes, reflect on and monitor one's research, learn qualitative software (Nvivo), perform different types of data analysis using different techniques, and write analytical memos, reports, or articles. By the end of the course, students should also be able to critique and evaluate the research conducted by other researchers.

The class will be organized and led as a research seminar with weekly readings, discussions, field exercises, in-class exercises, students reports on field exercises, end-of-semester project, and student presentations. Students are expected to come prepared to class with readings completed and assignments written and to participate actively in class discussion.

Training objectives of the course:

1. To train students in sound research design, in asking good research questions, and select appropriate methods for qualitative research
2. To train students to gain the necessary knowledge to understand what it means to do research with qualitative data, how it differs from traditional quantitative research and how both sets of methods are complementary to assist in the advancement of knowledge.
3. To help students develop an adequate knowledge of the main methods of qualitative research and of preparing for field work, accessing data, collecting data, and analyzing data.

4. To introduce students to the methodological and ethical implications related to qualitative research methods.
5. To introduce students to software and other non digital tools designed to help sort, organize, process, and analyse qualitative data
6. To help students learn how to synthesize and write-up results into memos, reports, and articles.

Skills

- Aplicar la metodologia de recerca, les tècniques i els recursos específics per a investigar i produir resultats innovadors en l'àmbit dels estudis ambientals.
- Apply knowledge of environmental and ecological economics to the analysis and interpretation of environmental problem areas.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Tenir coneixements que aportin la base o l'oportunitat de ser originals en el desenvolupament o l'aplicació d'idees, sovint en un context de recerca

Learning outcomes

1. Aplicar la metodologia de recerca, les tècniques i els recursos específics per a investigar i produir resultats innovadors en l'àmbit dels estudis ambientals.
2. Aprendre a discriminar les implicacions ètiques i metodològiques relacionades amb les decisions que shan dadoptar per dissenyar i dur a terme la investigació qualitativa.
3. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
4. Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
5. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
6. Discriminar les implicacions ètiques i metodològiques relacionades amb les decisions que shan dadoptar per dissenyar i dur a terme la investigació qualitativa.
7. Dissenyar una bona investigació, fent bones preguntes d'investigació, i seleccionant mètodes apropiats per a la investigació qualitativa.
8. Tenir coneixements que aportin la base o l'oportunitat de ser originals en el desenvolupament o l'aplicació d'idees, sovint en un context de recerca

Content

The following bullet points include a draft plan of content for the class and may be revised slightly before the beginning of the semester.

1. Introduction to Qualitative Research
2. Asking the right questions and designing your research
3. Literature review and questions
4. Case study
5. Preparation and ethics of field work
6. Conducting interviews and observations
7. Historical research, and action research
8. Preparing and conducting a survey
9. Data analysis
10. Practicing field work
11. Special session on focus groups
12. Structuring and writing a scientific article

Methodology

Work in large group (classroom)

1) Discussing the assigned papers for the session (critical analysis)

2) Presenting work from the course

Student individual work

1) Preparing weekly work and readings

3) Preparing and conducting observations

3) Preparing, conducting, and transcribing interviews

4) Writing field notes from interviews and observations

5) Writing report/paper/memo from field work

6) Preparation of final project (draft research project or proposal, detailed analytical memos, draft paper/article)

Work in small groups: Workshops

1) Workshop for qualitative data analysis (3 hours, not part of the evaluation)

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
	6	0.24	7
	30	1.2	2, 6
Type: Autonomous			
	8	0.32	1, 2, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8
	10	0.4	4, 3
	20	0.8	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3
	30	1.2	5
	40	1.6	8

Evaluation

Assignment 1: Research question (Non graded) -

Assignment 2: Short presentation of proposed research project (refined research question, summary, variables) (15%) -

Assignment 3: Case selection criteria (10%) -

Assignment 4: Fieldwork preparation (interview instrument) (10%) -

Assignment 5: Practicing field work (interviews): (25%) -

Assignment 6: Data analysis and writing a research report/detailed qualitative memos based on interviews (30%) -

Assignment 7: Participation in the discussion (each session record): Attendance and active participation in class discussion, quantity and quality of participation, constructive attitude to advance knowledge (10%) -

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
		1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8

1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8
1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8
1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8
1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8
1	0.04	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 8

Bibliography

The list of references below is exhaustive and includes numerous recommended suggested readings for students. A shorter and selected list of references with weekly obligatory readings will be given to the students at the beginning of the class in the Fall.

Abbott, Andrew. *Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences*, W. W. Norton, 2004.

Alasuutari, Pertti. *Researching Culture: Qualitative Methods and Cultural Studies*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.

Barrett, Christopher B. and Jeffrey W. Cason. "The Logistics of Fieldwork" and "The Challenges of the Field," in *Overseas Research: A Practical Guide*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

Becker, Howard. *Tricks of the Trade*, University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Becker, Howard. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. University of Chicago Press.

Becker, Howard S. "The Epistemology of Qualitative Research." Pp. 53-71 in R. Jessor, A. Colby, and R. Schweder (eds.), *Ethnography and Human Development: Context and Meaning in Social Inquiry*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996

Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman. "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science*, pp. 455-476, 2006.

Berg, Bruce L. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998.

Bogdan, Robert and Steven Taylor. *Introduction to Qualitative Methods*.

Burawoy, Michael "Extended Case Method," in *Sociological Theory*, 16:1, 1998, pp. 4-33.

Charmaz, K. *Constructing Grounded Theory*, Sage Publications, 2006.

Collier, David, James Mahoney, and Jason Seawright., "Claiming Too Much: Warnings about Selection Bias," pp. 85-102 in Henry Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004.

Collier, David and James Mahoney. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 49(1): 56-91, 1996.

Creswell, John W. *Research Design: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1994.

Denzin, Norman K. *The Research Act*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1989.

Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln, eds. *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1994.

Dewalt, Kathleen M. and Billie R. Dewalt. "Writing Fieldnotes" and "Sample Fieldnotes." In *Participant Observation: A Guide for Fieldworkers*. Alta Mira, 2002.

Emerson, Robert *Contemporary Field Research*. Waveland Press, 2001. (CFR)

Emerson, Robert, Rachel Fretz, and Linda Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Field Notes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Fetterman, David. *Ethnography Step by Step*.

Fielding, Nigel and Raymond Lee (eds.). *Using Computers in Qualitative Research*.

Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias and Related Issues." *Paradigms and Sandcastles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan. Skim pages 89-129, 2003.

Geertz, Clifford.. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." Chapter 1 in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, pp. 3-54, 1973

George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Science*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. Read pages 3-36, skim pages 73-108, 2005

- George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. "Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation." Pp. 205-232 in A. L. George and A. Bennett (eds.), *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Science*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2005.
- Gerring, John. "The Case Study: What it is and What it Does." In Charles Boix and Susan Stokes (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, pp 90-122, 2007.
- Glaser, Barney. *Theoretical Sensitivity (also Basics of Grounded Theory Analysis)*.
- Glaser, Barney G. and Anselm L. Strauss. *The Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research*. New York: Aldine, 1967.
- Glaser and Strauss, "Discovery of Substantive Theory: A Basic Strategy Underlying Qualitative Research." *The American Behavioral Scientist*, 8, 1965.*
- Glense, Corrine and Alan Peshkin. *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*.
- Gluck, Sherna Berger and Daphne Patai. *Women's Words: The Practice of Feminist Oral History*. London: Routledge, 1991
- Hammersley, Martyn and Atkinson, Paul. *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. London: Tavistock Publications, 1983.
- Hertz, Rosanna, and Jonathan B. Imber. *Studying Elites Using Qualitative Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- Jones, Charles O. "Doing Before Knowing: Concept Development in Political Research." *American Journal of Political Science* 18(1): 215-228, 1974.
- Johnson, John. *Doing Field Research*.
- Junker, Buford. *Fieldwork*.
- Kelle, Udo, ed. *Computer-Aided Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Page 35-49 and 76-91. 1994
- Leech, Beth. "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews." *Political Science & Politics* 35(4):665-668, 2002.
- Little, Daniel. "Evidence and Objectivity in the Social Sciences." *Social Research* 60: 363-96, 1993
- Lincoln, Yvonna and Egon Guba. *Naturalistic Inquiry*.
- Lofland, John and Lyn Lofland, *Analyzing Social Settings*. Belmont CA. 1995.
- Lofland, John. *Doing Social Life*.
- Lundberg Craig and Cheri Young. *Foundations for Inquiry: Choices and Trade-Offs in the Organizational Sciences*. Stanford University Press. 2005
- Marini, Margaret and Burton Singer. "Causality in the Social Sciences." *Sociological Methodology* 18: 347-409, 1988
- Marshall, Catherine. *Designing Qualitative Research*, 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1994.
- Maxwell, Joseph Alex. *Qualitative Research Design: an Interactive Approach*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Maxwell JA. 2002. "Understanding and Validity in Qualitative Research," *Harvard Educational Review*, 62:3, 1992, pp. 279-300. reprinted in In Huberman and Miles (eds.) *The Qualitative Researcher's Companion*. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 37-64.*
- McCracken, Grant. *The Long Interview*. Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, 1988.
- Miles, Matthew B., and A. Michael Huberman. *Qualitative Data Analysis*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1994.
- Mishler, Elliott. *Research Interviewing*. Harvard University Press, 1986.
- Morgan, Gareth and Linda Smircic. "The Case for Qualitative Research." *The Academy of Management Review* 5: 491-500, 1980
- Morse, Janice M. *Critical Issues in Qualitative Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1993.
- Morse, Janice M., and Peggy Anne Field. *Qualitative Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- Nielsen, Joyce McCarl. *Feminist Research Methods*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1990.
- Pfaffenberg, Bryan. *Microcomputer Applications in Qualitative Research*.
- Punch, Maurice. *The Politics and Ethics of Fieldwork*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1986.
- Ragin, Charles C. and Howard Becker. *What is aCase? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Read, B., MacLean, L.M. and Cammett, M. "Symposium: Field Research: How Rich? How Thick? How Participatory?" *Qualitative Methods*. 4(2) 9-18, 2006

- Reason, Peter, ed. *Participation in Human Inquiry: Research with People*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- Reinharz, Shulamit, with Lynn Davidman. *Feminist methods in social research*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Rubin, Irene B., and Herbert J Rubin. *Hearing Data: The Art of Qualitative Interviewing*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995 (August).
- Schaeffer, Nora Cate and Stanley Presser. "The Science of Asking Questions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 65-88. 2003
- Schwab, Donald P. "Construct Validity in Organizational Behavior." *Research in Organizational Behavior* 2: 3-43, 1980.
- Schatzman, Leonard and Anselm Strauss. *Field Research*.
- Seawright, Jason and John Gerring. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options." *Political Research Quarterly* 61: 294-308. 2008
- Siccama Carolyn and Stacy Penna. Enhancing Validity of Qualitative Dissertation Research Study by Using NVIVO. *Qualitative Research Journal*. Vol. 8 no. 2.2 008
- Singleton, Royce A. and Bruce C. Straits. Chapter 1 in *Approaches to Social Research*, Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Silverman, David. *Interpreting Qualitative Data*. London: Sage Publications, 1993.
- _____. *Qualitative Methodology and Sociology*. Aldershot: Gower Publishing, 1985.
- Spradley, James. *Participant Observation*.
- Strauss, Anselm. *Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists*.
- Strauss and Corbin, 1998. *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*.
- Van Maanen, John, *Tales Of the Field*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988.
- _____. *Representation in Ethnography*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- Warren, Carol A.B. *Gender Issues in Field Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1988.
- Warren, Carol A. B. and Tracy X. Karner. "Analyzing Qualitative Data." Pp. 187-218 in *Discovering Qualitative Methods: Field Research, Interviews, and Analysis*. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company, 2005.
- Weiss, Robert S. *Learning from Strangers: The Art & Method of Qualitative Interviewing*. New York: Free Press. 1994.
- Weitzman, Eben A., and Matthew B. Miles. *Computer Programs for Qualitative Data Analysis*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 1995.
- Yin, Robert. *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*, 4th Edition (Beverly Hills: Sage, 2008)
- The Sage series in *Qualitative Research Methods* includes excellent guides. These titles are particularly relevant:
- Erickson and Stull, *Doing Group Ethnography (#42)*
- Schwartzman, *Ethnography in Organizations (#27)*
- Feldman, *Strategies for Interpreting Qualitative Data (#33)*
- Gladwin, *Ethnographic Decision Tree Modeling (#19)*
- Holstein and Gubrium, *The Active Interview (#37)*
- Riessman, *Narrative Analysis (#30)*
- Below is a very diverse collection of published studies (into books) using qualitative methods.
- Adler, Patricia. *Wheeling and Dealing*.
- Aitheid, David. *Creating Reality*.
- Andersen. Elijah. *Code of the Street*.
- Becker, Howard. Et al, *Boys in White*.
- Becker, Howard. *Outsiders*.
- Bennett, Stith. *Making Music Together*.
- Billig, Michael. *Talking of the Royal Family*.
- Bittner, Egon, *Aspects of Police Work*.
- Blee, Kathleen. *Insides Organized Racism*.
- Bourgeois, Philippe. *In Search of Respect*.
- Brooks, Peter and Paul Gewirtz (eds.), *Law's Stories*.
- Bumiller, Kristin. *The Civil Rights Society*.
- Burawoy, Michael. *Making Out on the Shop Floor*.
- Cassell, Joan. *Expected Miracles*.
- Cavan, Sherri. *Liquor License*.
- Conley, John M. and William M. O'Barr. *Rules Versus Relationships*

Crozier, Michel. The Bureaucratic Phenomenon.
Duneier, Mitch. Slim's Table; Sidewalk.
Eden, Lyn. The Whole World on Fire.
Engel, David and Frank Munger, Rights of Inclusion.
Epstein, Steve. Impure Science.
Ewick and Silbey, The Common Place of Law: Stories From Everyday Life.
Faulkner, Rob. Music on Demand.
Gaines, Donna. Teenage Wasteland.
Gans, Herbert, The Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans
Gieryn, Tom. The Cultural Boundaries of Science.
Gilliom, John. Overseers of the Poor.
Goffman, Erving. Asylums; Presentation of Self in Everyday Life; Stigma.
Greenhouse, Carol. Praying for Justice.
Gusterson, Hugh, Nuclear Rites.
Harper, Doug. Working Knowledge.
Helmreich, Stefan. Silicon Second Nature.
Hochschild, Arlie. The Managed Heart.
Howe, James. A People Who Would Not Kneel.
Humphreys, Laud. Tearoom Trade.
Jackson, Jean. Camp Pain.
Jacobs, Jane The Death and Life of Great American Cities
Jasper, Jim and Dorothy Nelkin. The Animal Rights Crusade.
Katz, Jack. The Seductions of Crime; How Emotions Work.
Knorr-Cetina, Karin. Epistemic Cultures.
Krieger, Susan. The Mirror Dance.
Kunda, Gideon. Engineering Culture.
Latour, Bruno and Steve Woolgar. Laboratory Life.
Lynch, Michael. Scientific Practice and Ordinary Action.
Marorella, Roseann. The Sociology of Opera.
Moore, Joan. Going Down to the Barrio.
Oldenburg, Ray. The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons and Other Hangouts at the Heart of the Community
Pattillo, Mary Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City
Paxson, Heather. Making Mothers.
Petryna, Adriana. Life Exposed.
Prus, Bob and C.D. Sharper. Road Hustler.
Rock, Paul. Making People Pay.
Rosenblum, Barbara. Photographers at Work.
Sanders, Clint. Customizing the Body.
Sarat, Austin and William Felstiner. Divorce Lawyers and their Clients.
Seron, Carroll. The Business of Practicing Law.
Spradley, James. You Owe Yourself a Drunk.
Spradley, James and Brenda Mann. The Cocktail Waitress.
Slyomovic, Susan. The Performance of Human Rights in Morocco.
Traweek, Sharon. Beamtimes and Lifetimes.
Tuchman, Gaye. Making News.
Vale, Lawrence Reclaiming Public Housing: A Half-Century of Struggle in Three Public Neighborhoods
Vaughan, Diane. Uncoupling.
Walley, Christine. "Rough Waters: Struggles over the Environment, Development Weatherford, Jack. Porn Row.
Weinstein, Deena. Heavy Metal.
Whyte, William F. Streetcorner Society.
Willis, Paul. Learn to Labour.
Zuboff, Shoshana. In the Age of the Smart Machine.
Zussman, Robert. Intensive Care.