

Mètodes Qualitatius per a la Recerca en Ciències Socials

2015/2016

Codi: 42409

Crèdits: 6

Titulació

4313784 Estudis Interdisciplinaris en Sostenibilitat Ambiental, Econòmica i Social

Tipus

OT

Curs

0

Semestre

1

Professor de contacte

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Utilització de llengües

Llengua vehicular majoritària: anglès (eng)

Equip docent

Louis Lemkow

Isabel Ruíz Mallén

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)

Objectius

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.

More specific objectives include:

- B06 (Basic) - Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- B08 (Basic) - Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- B09 (Basic) - Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- B10 (Basic) - Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- E01 (Specific) - Apply knowledge of environmental and ecological economics to the analysis and interpretation of environmental problem areas.
- T01 (Transverse) - Apply specific methodologies, techniques and resources to conduct research and produce innovative results in the area of Environmental Studies.
- T03 (Transverse) - Communicate orally and in writing in English.

Competències

- Aplicar els coneixements d'economia ambiental i ecològica a l'anàlisi i a la interpretació de problemàtiques ambientals.
- Aplicar la metodologia de recerca, les tècniques i els recursos específics per a investigar i produir resultats innovadors en l'àmbit dels estudis ambientals.
- Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
- Que els estudiants sàpiguen comunicar les seves conclusions, així com els coneixements i les raons últimes que les fonamenten, a públics especialitzats i no especialitzats d'una manera clara i sense ambigüitats
- Que els estudiants siguin capaços d'integrar coneixements i enfrontar-se a la complexitat de formular judicis a partir d'una informació que, tot i ser incompleta o limitada, inclogui reflexions sobre les responsabilitats socials i ètiques vinculades a l'aplicació dels seus coneixements i judicis
- Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom o autodirigit
- 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

Resultats d'aprenentatge

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 s'han d'adoptar per dissenyar i dur a terme la investigació qualitativa.
3. Comunicar oralment i per escrit en anglès
4. Discriminar les implicacions ètiques i metodològiques relacionades amb les decisions que s'han d'adoptar per dissenyar i dur a terme la investigació qualitativa.
5. Dissenyar una bona investigació, fent bones preguntes d'investigació, i seleccionant mètodes apropiats per a la investigació qualitativa.

6. Que els estudiants sàpiguen comunicar les seves conclusions, així com els coneixements i les raons últimes que les fonamenten, a públics especialitzats i no especialitzats d'una manera clara i sense ambigüitats
7. Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom a autodirigit
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

Continguts

The following bullet points include a draft plan of content for the class and may be revised slightly before the beginning of the semester. A complete syllabus will also be distributed the first week of class.

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

Main Learning Results:

Qualitative Research:

Being able to conduct qualitative research, prepare materials for field research, immerse oneself in a research site, collect appropriate materials, and write field notes

Qualitative Data Analysis:

Developing the skills to properly analyze the text provided by field work or other sources of information. Being able to use digital technology or manual tools to develop qualitative data analysis.

Ethics in research:

Learning to discriminate methodological and ethical implications associated with decisions to be taken to design and conduct qualitative research.

Writing and review:

Being able to present research results in a detailed and scientific manner. Be able to critique other researcher's work

Communication skills:

Being able to share their work orally

Being able to write clearly and cogently

Metodologia

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)

Activitats formatives

Títol	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Tipus: Dirigides			
Work in large group (classroom)	30	1,2	
Work in small groups: Interviews and data analysis	6	0,24	
Tipus: Autònomes			
At home short assignment(s)	10	0,4	
Conducting and Practicing field work	8	0,32	
Qualitative research project	20	0,8	
Readings	40	1,6	
Transcription/analysis/writing	30	1,2	

Avaluació

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%) -

Overall participation grade: 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%) -

Activitats d'avaluació

Títol	Pes	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Assignment 2	15%	1	0,04	5

Assignment 3	10%	1	0,04	3, 4, 5, 6
Assignment 4	10%	1	0,04	1, 2, 3, 7, 8
Assignment 5	25%	1	0,04	1, 2, 3, 7, 8
Assignment 6	30%	1	0,04	1, 2, 3, 6, 8
Assignment 7	10%	1	0,04	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Bibliografia

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.

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- 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.
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- 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*.
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- 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*.
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- 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.