UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

2017/2018

Metodologia de Recerca

Codi: 42455
Crèdits: 10

Titulació	Tipus	Curs	Semestre
4313500 Gestió Pública	OT	0	2

Professor de contacte

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Utilització d'idiomes a l'assignatura

Llengua vehicular majoritària: anglès (eng)

Prerequisits

Els estudiants que cursin aquesta assignatura han de tenir coneixement bàsic de tècniques de recerca en ciències socials de nivell de Grau.

Objectius

Aquest mòdul ofereix una introducció als problemes metodològics del disseny d'una recerca científica en l'àmbit de les ciències socials. S'hi estudien les opcions per al disseny de la recerca en l'àmbit temàtic de la gestió pública, així com una selecció de tècniques quantitatives i qualitatives útils per a l'anàlisi científic, aprofundint en la seva aplicació. Es busca que l'estudiant:

1. Aprengui a dissenyar i elaborar projectes i informes tècnics utilitzant la metodologia de recerca adequada.

2. Aprengui a avaluar projectes i informes realitzats per tercers amb criteris metodològics i argumentatius adequats.

3. Adquireixi l'habilitat d'aprenentatge que li permeti continuar estudiant d'una manera autodirigida o autònoma.

Competències

- Aplicar les tècniques metodològiques adequades per a l'anàlisi rigorosa d'aspectes i relacions amb la intervenció pública en la societat i l'economia.
- Avaluar projectes i informes fets per tercers amb criteris metodològics i argumentatius adequats.
- Dissenyar i elaborar projectes i informes tècnics utilitzant la metodologia de recerca adequada.

- Dissenyar un projecte de recerca delimitat d'acord amb els criteris de rigor conceptual i metodològic en el marc de les ciències socials.
- Gestionar un conjunt divers i complex de dades i fonts.
- Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom a autodirigit
- Treballar en equips multidisciplinaris i internacionals, amb membres de procedències diverses, d'entorns sociopolítics, culturals i administratius diferents.

Resultats d'aprenentatge

1. Avaluar projectes i informes fets per tercers amb criteris metodològics i argumentatius adequats.
2. Conèixer els debats i reptes actuals de les principals tècniques d'investigació quantitativa i qualitativa.
3. Conèixer les principals tècniques de recerca quantitatives i qualitatives.
4. Dissenyar i elaborar projectes i informes tècnics utilitzant la metodologia de recerca adequada.
5. Fer observables els fenòmens/factors rellevants per a l'estudi.
6. Identificar avantatges i dificultats relacionades amb la validesa i la fiabilitat de les tècniques seleccionades.
7. Identificar les fonts de dades disponibles per abordar el problema de recerca plantejat.
8. Identificar les tècniques qualitatives més apropiades per respondre una pregunta de recerca amb les dades disponibles i analitzar-les.
9. Identificar les tècniques quantitatives apropiades per respondre una pregunta de recerca i analitzar-la.
10. Que els estudiants tinguin les habilitats d'aprenentatge que els permetin continuar estudiant, en gran manera, amb treball autònom a autodirigit
11. Relacionar tècniques quantitatives i/o qualitatives a una pregunta de recerca i justificar l'esmentada relació.
12. Treballar en equips multidisciplinaris i internacionals, amb membres de procedències diverses, d'entorns sociopolítics, culturals i administratius diferents.

Continguts

RESEARCH METHODS

Màster Universitari de Gestió Pública

Course 2017-18

Tuesdays 9:00 to 11:30

Tuesdays 11:30 to 14:00

Thursdays 11:30 to 14:00

Coordinator

Guillem Rico

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Faculty

Míriam Acebillo, Gabriela de Carvalho, Lara Maestripieri, Dani Marinova, Eva Østergaard-Nielsen, Guillem Rico

Aim of course

The aim of this course is for the students to be familiar with and know how to apply a series of the main social science research techniques of collecting and analysing data. In order to meet these objectives, we include

both quantitative and qualitative techniques. We cannot cover all the research techniques of the social sciences, but centre on those that can be found in the main social science journals. We prioritize issues of practical training and interpretation over very mathematical questions.

The sessions on quantitative and qualitative research techniques will be taught in parallel over the 8 weeks of the course. The classes combine theoretical lectures with seminars and sessions of practicing different techniques. An important part of the course takes place outside of the classroom in order to consolidate the use of a selection of the research techniques.

Acquired skills

Specific skills

- To identify and know how to affront the main methodological difficulties that occur in a political science analysis
- To work with a complex and diverse set of data and sources of information
- To design a research project that satisfies criteria of excellence and rigorous analysis.
- To apply those qualitative and quantitative research techniques which are necessary for a systematic and rigorous analysis of political reality.

Transversal skills

- To be able to evaluate applied or academic research with relevant criteria.
- To be able to design academic and applied research projects in an independent manner and using the relevant terminology, argumentation and analytical framework.
- Demonstrate the ability to read and understand specialized texts in English.

Content and readings

QUALITATIVE METHODS (Convenor: Eva Østergaard-Nielsen)

<u>**Introduction:**</u>

Session 1. Introduction to qualitative research techniques

What are the main characteristics of qualitative research? How to assess validity and reliability in qualitative research? What kind of research questions can we ask using qualitative research techniques? Which types of qualitative techniques can best be combined and how may they be triangulated?

Required Readings:

- Della Porta, Donatella and Michael Keating, M. 2008. Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences, part I
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene N. and Leavy, Patricia L. 2011. The practice of qualitative research. Sage publications. PART I

Recommended Reading:

- Guba, E. G. & Lincoln, Y. S. 1994. Competing paradigms in qualitative research, in N. K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), Handbook of qualitative research (pp. 105-117). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

<u>**Data collection:**</u>

Session 2. Interviews

What are the characteristics and differences between structured, semi-structured and open-ended/narrative interviews? How may the researcher sample the interviewees in a qualitative research project?

Required Readings:

- Leech, B.L, 'Asking Questions: Techniques for Semi-structured Interviews, in PS: Political Science and Politics, vo. 35, no. 4, pp. 665 Available through JStor

Recommended Readings:

- Hesse-Biber, S. And Leavy, P. (2011) The practice of qualitative research. Sage publications. PART II Chapters 4, 5 and 7

- Rathbun, B. C. (2008). Interviewing and qualitative field methods: pragmatism and practicalities in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds) Oxford handbook of political methodology, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 685-701.
- How many qualitative interviews is enough? Read the following text: http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/2273/4/how_many_interviews.pdf

Session 3. Focus Groups

In this class, there will be an introduction to focus group, taking into account conceptual considerations, best practices and how to design it.

Required readings

- Kitzinger, J. (1994) The methodology of focus groups: the importance of interaction between research participants. Sociology of Health and Ilness, 16 (1): 104-121.
    - Wilkinson, S. (1998) Focus group methodology: a review. International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 1:3, 181-203.

Recommended readings

- Krueger, R. & Casey, M. (2000) Focus group: a practical guide for applied research. Thousand Oaks, Sage.
- Morgan, D. (1997) Focus groups as qualitative research. Thousand Oaks, Sage.

Session 4. Field research

This class will examine methodological and practical issues of ethnographic research. It will cover: typologies of field research, the fieldwork entry, the (participant) observation, the collection of information, and the analyses of qualitative evidence.

Required readings

- Fenno, Richard. 1978. Appendix - Notes on Method: Participant Observation. From: Home Style: House Members in Their Districts. Little, Brown, and Company, 249-295.
- Kapiszewski, Diana, MacLean, Lauren M., Read, Benjamin L. 2015. "Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles," in Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Recommended Readings:

- Wood, Elisabeth J. 2007. "Field Research," in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes. The Handbook of Comparative Politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Collier, David. 1999. "Data, Field Work and Extracting New Ideas at Close Range." APSA-CP Newsletter, 10(1): 1-2, 4-6.

Data analysis:

Session 5. Discourse analysis

This session will clarify what discourses are, how they function and how we can analyse them. In addition, we will deal with the types of discourse analysis and we will reflect upon the kinds of data we can examine discursively.

Required readings

- Gunders, L. (2012) Immoral and un-Australian: the discursive exclusion of welfare recipient. Critical Discourse Studies, 9:1, 1-13.
- Bhatia, A. (2006). Critical discourse analysis of political press conferences. Discourse & Society, 17(2), 173-203.

Recommended readings

- Bloor, M. & Bloor, T. (2007) The Practice of Critical Discourse Analysis: An Introduction, London: Hodder Education.
- Fairclough, N. (1992). Discourse and social change. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Session 6. Further issues in Qualitative Research

We will cover ethical issues, sensitive topics, and transparency in qualitative research (active citation and archiving).

Required readings:

- Fujii, Lee Ann. 2010. "Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence." Journal of Peace Research 47(2): 231-41.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 2010. "Active Citation: A Precondition for Replicable Qualitative Research," PS: Political Science and Politics 43(1): 29-35.

Recommended reading:

- Kapiszewski, Diana, MacLean, Lauren M., Read, Benjamin L. 2015. "Managing in the Field: Logistical, Social, Operational, andEthical Challenges," in Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.

Sessions 7, 8, and 9. Analysis of Interviews: Introduction to CAQDAS and ATLAS.ti

The main aim of these sessions is to introduce the CAQDAS and ATLAS.ti software applications' basic elements to analyse qualitative interviews. By doing so, other goals will be reached: on one hand Grounded Theory's methodological approach to data analysis is presented. On the other, we will reflect upon the process of qualitative (inductive or deductive) codification and its link to the research design.

Required Readings (both in the UAB Library):

- Birks, M. & Mills, J. (2011) Grounded Theory: a practical guide, Los Angeles, London: SAGE. Chapter 1
- Lewins, A. & Silver, C. (2007) Using software in qualitative research: a step-by-step guide. London: SAGE. Chapter 2 (Only from page 16 to 25)& Chapter 5
- Introduction to Atlas.ti. Exercises. PDF uploaded to the Campus Virtual.

Other recommended or alternative readings:

There are different texts by Corbin, J. & Strauss, A.; Friese, S. or Charmaz, K. available from the UAB Library system. They can complement or support the chapter by Birks, M. & Mills, J. on the Grounded Theory approach (see Corbin, Strauss, Charmaz) or be used as an alternative to the Lewins, A. & Silver, C.'s Atlas.ti manual (see Friese).

- Friese, S. (2011) "Using ATLAS.ti for Analyzing the Financial Crisis Data", Volume 12, No. 1, Art. 39 of FQS. Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research: http ://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1632/3150
- Bryant, A., & Charmaz, K. (2007) The SAGE handbook of grounded theory. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE (UAB Library has it)
- Charmaz, Kathy (2001) "Qualitative interviewing and Grounded Theory analysis", in Gubrium, Jaber F.; Holstein, James A. (eds) Handbook of Interview Research: Context and Method, SAGE Publications (UAB Library has it)

- Charmaz, Kathy (2006) Constructing grounded theory: a practical guide through qualitative analysis, London; Thousand Oaks : SAGE; 2nd edition from 2014 (UAB Library has it)
- Corbin, J. & Strauss, A. (1990) "Grounded Theory Research: Procedures, Canons and Evaluative Criteria", Qualitative Sociology, Vol.13, N.1.
- Friese, S. (2012) Qualitative Data Analysis with Atlas.ti, SAGE (UAB Library has it), there is a second edition (2014) including new features of Atlas.ti

QUANTITATIVE METHODS (Convenor: G. RICO)

This part of the course assumes no prior knowledge other than a minimal mathematical background. Students who have not taken any type of quantitative course since high school should read the following text before the course starts:

- Bolker, E. D., & Mast, M. 2015. Common Sense Mathematics. Mathematical Association of America. Available at http://www.cs.umb.edu/~eb/qrbook/qrbook.pdf.

Those who want to gain some more statistical insight are also strongly encouraged to read:

- Wheelan, C. 2013. Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data. New York: WW Norton & Company.

All sessions take place in the computer lab and are structured in two parts. The first part is devoted to a lecture. The second is intended to provide practical experience with the related lecture topics, mainly through exercises with the statistical software Stata. A short introduction to data analysis and Stata will be offered at the end of the first semester within the Introduction to Research course.

This course draws heavily on the following books:

- Pollock, P. H. 2016. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press (henceforth: Essentials)
- Pollock, P. H. 2015. A Stata Companion to Political Analysis, 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press (henceforth: Stata).

For some parts we will also make use of:

- Kellstedt, P. M. & G. D. Whitten. 2013. The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (henceforth: Kellstedt & Whitten).

Session 1: Introduction to data analysis

Session 2: Descriptive statistics

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 24-43
- Stata, pp. 13-27

Session 3: Basic bivariate analysis

Required Reading:

- Stata, pp. 53-65

Recommended reading:

- Essentials, pp. 48-70

Session 4: Introduction to statistical inference

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 123-153
- Stata, pp. 103-106

Session 5: Bivariate hypothesis testing

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 156-170
- Stata, pp. 106-109, 113-114 & 121-122

Recommended reading:

- Smith, K. B., C. W. Larimer, L. Littvay & J. R. Hibbing .2007. Evolutionary Theory and Political Leadership: Why Certain People Do Not Trust Decision Makers. Journal of Politics, 69(2): 285-299.

Session 6: Correlation and bivariate regression

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 183-197
- Stata, pp. 131-136

Session 7: Making controlled comparisons

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 78-97 & 102-118
- Stata, pp. 81-91

Session 8: Multiple regression (I)

Required Reading:

- Stata, pp. 136-138
- Carnes, N. & N. Lupu. 2015. Rethinking the Comparative Perspective on Class and Representation: Evidence from Latin America. American Journal of Political Science, 59(1): 1-18.

Session 9: Multiple regression (II): Categorical independent variables

Required Reading:

- Essentials, pp. 198-201
- Stata, pp. 149-154

Recommended reading:

- Mutz, D.C. 2010. The Dog that Didn't Bark: The Role of Canines in the 2008 Campaign. PS: Political Science & Politics, 43(4): 707-712.

Session 10: Multiple regression (III): Interactions

Required Reading:

- Essentials, 203-207
- Stata, pp. 154-160

Recommended reading:

- TBA

Session 11: EXAM

Session schedule

Qualitative methods sessions in red, quantitative sessions in blue.

	9.00-11.30	11.30-14.00
30 January		1. Introduction to data analysis
1 February		2. Descriptive statistics
6 February	1. Introduction to qualitative research	3. Basic bivariate analysis
8 February		4. Statistical inference
13 February	2. Interviews	3. Focus groups
15 February		5. Hypothesis testing
20 February	6. Correlation & bivariate regression	7. Making controlled comparisons
22 February		8. Multiple regression I
27 February	4. Field research	9. Multiple regression II
1 March		
6 March	5. Discourse analysis	10. Multiple regression III
8 March		
13 March	6. Further issues	
15 March		
20 March	7. Analysis of interviews I	8. Analysis of interviews II
22 March		9. Analysis of interviews I
10 April		11. Exam

Metodologia

L'aprenentatge es fonamentarà en la combinació de les següents metodologies docents:

Classes magistrals/expositives

Seminaris de discusió

Resolució d'exercicis i casos pràctics

Elaboració de treballs

Tutories

Lectures d'articles d'interès.

Activitats formatives

Títol	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge

Tipus: Dirigides			
Classes magistrals	50	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Tipus: Supervisades			
Seminaris i tutories	75	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Tipus: Autònomes			
Treballs i exercicis	125	5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Avaluació

L'avaluació es fonamentarà en la realització de:

1. Exercicis d'aplicació de tècniques qualitatives

2. Exercicis d'aplicació de tècniques quantitatives

3. Examen

A continuació, s'ofereixen més detalls:

Evaluation

The major part of the evaluation of this module is through continuous practice and feedback on the understanding and use of various research techniques. The evaluation consists of:

- Participation in class (it is obligatory to attend at least at 80% of the sessions in order to pass this module)
- Exercises related to the different qualitative and quantitative research techniques.
- An exam related to the quantitative sessions.

The evaluation on qualitative techniques represents 50% of the final grade: The students will hand in four exercises during the course:

- Exercise 1. Practice of Interviews (25%)
- Exercise 2: Practice of Field research (25%)
- Exercise 3: Practice of Discourse analysis (25%)
- Exercise 4: Practice on the main Atlas.ti functions of support for analysis of qualitative interviews (25%) HU "bundled" project.

The evaluation on quantitative techniques represents 50% of the final grade: The students will submit two homework assignments during the course:

- Assignment 1: Bivariate analysis (30%) due on 22 February
- Assignment 2: Multiple regression (35%) due on 13 March

They will also complete an exam (35%)

IMPORTANT: In order to pass the course, it is required for students to obtain a grade of at least 5 over 10 in each of its two parts--qualitative and quantitative. In order to pass the quantitative part, students must obtain a grade of at least 5 over 10 in the final exam.

Activitats d'avaluació

Títol	Pes	Hores	ECTS	Resultats d'aprenentatge
Examen tècniques quantitatives	20%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Exercicis tècniques qualitatives	40%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Exercicis tècniques qualitatives	40%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Bibliografia

Core readings

Qualitative

Bryman, A. 2001. Social Research Methods. Oxford University Press

Creswell, J. 2007. Qualitative Inquiry and research design. Choosing Among Five Approaches

Della Porta, D. & M. Keating, M. 2008. Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kapiszewski, Diana, MacLean, Lauren M., Read, Benjamin L. 2015. Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.

Hesse-Biber, S. And Leavy, P. 2004. Approaches to Qualitative Research. A reader on theory and practice. Oxford. Oxford University Press

Hesse-Biber, S. And Leavy, P. 2006. The practice of qualitative research. Sage.

Denzin, N. K., & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.). 2012. Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Sarantakos, S. 2005. Social Research (third edition). Palgrave Macmillan

Relevant Journals:

International Journal of Qualitative methods
http://www.sagepub.in/journals/Journal202499#tabview=manuscriptSubmission

Qualitative Research Journal http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/qrj/15/4

Quantitative

Acock, A. C. 2014. A Gentle Introduction to Stata, 4th ed. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Agresti, A. 2009. Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences, 4th ed. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Kellstedt, P. M. & G. D. Whitten. 2013. The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lewis-Beck, M. (1980) Applied regression: An introduction. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Long, J. S. & J. Freese. 2014. Regression Models for Categorical Dependent Variables Using Stata, Third Edition. College Station, TX: Stata Press.

Pollock, P. H. 2016. The Essentials of Political Analysis, 5th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Pollock, P. H. 2015. A Stata Companion to Political Analysis, 3rd ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.