

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Ariadna Ripoll Servent
Office hours: Tuesdays, 16:00-17:00



Winter Term 2013/14

Bamberg Graduate School
of Social Sciences

Seminar (PhD)/Hauptseminar (MA):

Qualitative Methods of Comparative Social Inquiry

This seminar-based course offers a broad introduction to the field of qualitative methods from a comparative perspective and beyond. It aims to situate the use of qualitative methods in different research traditions with the aim to uncover their advantages and limitations. The course is divided in four parts: the first part investigates the meaning of qualitative methods and its links with particular ways to investigate and understand the social world; the second part concentrates on various methods to gather qualitative data; the third (and main part) looks at how primary and secondary qualitative data can be used and analysed. It discusses the importance of theory, causality and how they are linked to the way we interpret and present our data. The final part of the course deals with the assessment of qualitative data and methods – discussing the standards of validity, reliability and generalisability as well as broader questions of ethics in social science research.

Date: Tuesdays, 14:00–16:00
Room: FG1/00.06
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Eligibility Requirements:

- The working language of this course is English. All coursework must be completed in English.
- Regular attendance and knowledge of the required readings will be expected.

MA students:

- To obtain a certificate, participants will have to give a presentation and write a term paper (5000 to 6000 words).
- **Submission of term paper deadline: 11 March 2014.**
- Please note: The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is required: Registration opens on **01.10.2013**.

Questions:

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your lecturer:
Prof. Dr. Ariadna Ripoll Servent
e-mail: ariadna.ripoll@uni-bamberg.de
Room: FG1/01.13

Course Outline – Qualitative Methods of Comparative Social Inquiry

1. 15/10/2013 Introduction to Qualitative Methods
2. 22/10/2013 Research Design and Qualitative Methods

Gathering Qualitative Data

3. 29/10/2013 Collecting Primary and Secondary Data
4. 05/11/2013 Qualitative Interviews
5. 12/11/2013 Ethnographic Methods
6. 19/11/2013 Surveys and Focus Groups

Analysing Qualitative Data

7. 26/11/2013 Concepts, Measurement and Theory-Building
8. 03/12/2013 Causality and Counterfactuals
9. 10/12/2013 Case Studies and Case Selection
10. 19/12/2013
(4p.m.-6p.m.) Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) – *Dr. Guido Schweltnus*
11. 07/01/2014 Process-Tracing and Analytic Narratives
12. 14/01/2014 Content and Discourse Analysis
13. 21/01/2014 Mixed Methods

Assessing Qualitative Data

14. 28/01/2014 Standards of Social Research: Validity, Generalisability and Reliability
15. 04/02/2014 Ethics in Qualitative Methods and Summary
- 11/03/2014 **Term Paper Deadline**