



Block Seminar (PhD)/(MA):  
**Qualitative Methods of Social  
Inquiry**

This seminar offers a broad introduction to the field of qualitative methods. It aims to situate the use of qualitative methods in different research traditions in order to uncover their respective 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; it discusses the importance of theory, causality and how they are linked to the way we interpret and present our data. The second part concentrates on various methods to gather qualitative data; the third looks at how primary and secondary qualitative data can be used and analysed. 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.

**Dates:** Mondays **14:00–18:00**: 15.10.18; 29.10.18; 05.11.18; 12.11.18; 10.12.18; 17.12.18;  
14.01.19  
**Room:** FG1/00.06  
**ECTS:** 8  
**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Ariadna Ripoll Servent  
**Office hours:** Wednesdays, 12:00–13:00

**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.
- To obtain a certificate, participants will have to organise a class exercise and submit a portfolio of two data reports in which they will be asked to develop a research question and then answer it with the help of qualitative data and methods.
- Please note: Student registration via FlexNow! is required.