



Qualitative Research Design

Instructor: Professor Dr Lasse Gerrits, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Course outline

Qualitative research comes in many forms. Among many others, it encompasses historical analysis of processes, case comparisons, action research, and grounded theory (to name but a few). Some approaches are meant to build theories, others to test existing theories. Each approach comes with a specific set of data sources. For example, historical research often relies on archival sources, while an ethnography often relies on observations and interviews. It implies that your research project must be designed with attention to your goals, the types of analytical statements you would like to make, and the data sources available. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the main research designs in qualitative research, and to help you identifying the right design for your research, as well as guiding you towards the data sources and analytical methods you would like to use. We will also look at some key aspects of qualitative research, in particular data coding and subsequent analysis of the codes. Last but not least, we will discuss how different designs may be combined. Please note that this course is primarily about qualitative (case-based) research designs. It does not teach a specific analytical technique. Also, this course is not fitting for PhD projects that use quantitative data.

Prerequisites

- This is an introductory course, so no prior knowledge required.

Time Schedule and Topics covered

Monday 27.03.2023:

- Introduction to qualitative research design: when and how
- Different types of designs: goals, pros and cons

Tuesday 28.03.2023:

- Setting up the appropriate design for your research
- Data collection and processing

Wednesday 29.03.2023:

- Combined / multi-model designs

About the trainer

Professor Lasse Gerrits studied Public Administration and Urban Planning at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. After his graduation in 2003, he worked as a researcher at TNO Built Environment and Geosciences whilst working on his PhD thesis on the management of fragile ecosystems simultaneously. He received his PhD degree in 2008 and was appointed as assistant-professor (2008 – 2011) and associate-professor (2011 – 2014) at the Erasmus University Rotterdam before being appointed as full professor in Political Science at the Otto-Friedrich University in Bamberg, Germany. In Bamberg, he was the first holder of the Governance of Innovative and Complex Technological System chair. Currently he is the Academic Director at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, focusing on the PhD program, student supervision, and developing the scientific portfolio of the institute.