



Coding and Analysing Qualitative Data

Instructor: Professor Dr Lasse Gerrits, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Course outline

Qualitative data can be very complex. Data coding allows one to organize, relate, and visualize data. Above all, it is a powerful tool to generate results in a structured and transparent fashion. Over decades, qualitative data coding has become much more advanced, not in the least because of the arrival of software packages that support it. This course introduces PhD students to qualitative data coding. The course addresses two aspects: the logic and operations of coding, and the use of software when coding data. We will address topics such as understanding the (layered) complexity of data, data exploration, discovery of patterns, structuring and visualization, and presentation of the results. This course is especially useful for those PhD students actively working with qualitative data, if only because there will be opportunities to explore and code one's own dataset. Please note: the course is not just focused on how the software works. It very much is about getting coding right, regardless of whether software is involved or not.

Prerequisites

Please ensure that you have the software MAXQDA or AtlasTI installed. MAXQDA is supported by the University of Bamberg, but we can also use AtlasTI. Please ensure that you have a qualitative dataset available. This can be of any type (e.g., interview transcripts, newspaper articles, photos or videos). This dataset should be accessible on the same laptop that has the software installed. PhD students who followed the BAGSS course 'Qualitative Research Design' get priority in enrollment.

Time Schedule and Topics covered

Monday 18.03.2024:

- Complexity of qualitative and mixed data
- Data discovery and serendipity

Tuesday 19.03.2024:

- Basics of coding
- Codebooks

Wednesday 20.03.2024:

- Introduction to coding software
- Complex coding operations

Thursday 21.03.2024:

- Automated coding
- Coding analysis and results

Friday 22.03.2024:

- Dialogue data and theory
- Presenting results

About the Trainer

Professor Lasse Gerrits studied Public Administration and Urban Planning at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. In 2014, he was appointed as full professor in Political Science at the Otto-Friedrich University in Bamberg, Germany. Since 2020, he is the Academic Director at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Among others, he is responsible for the PhD program and PhD supervision. His new book 'The Atlas of Social Complexity' will come out in May 2024.