

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER  
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME  
PROF. DR. DR. LASSE GERRITS**



**Education Program SS 2019**

**Seminar: Qualitative Methods of Comparative Social Inquiry**

**Room:** F-21/02.41

**Time:** Wednesday, 16-18 h

**Start:** April 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Short Description:**

This seminar offers a broad but thorough 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.

**Notes:**

The seminar will be taught in English. Test and grading: paper Minimum - maximum number of participants: 3 - 25

**Learning goals of the course:**

- To understand the role of qualitative research methods in political science
- To list the advantages and disadvantages of various qualitative research methods
- To make a reasoned choice for a certain qualitative research method given a specific research question and theoretical framework.
- To carry out a specific qualitative research method competently in order to answer a specific research question

**Literature (mandatory):**

E-reader, available online through Virtual Campus.

**Test and grading:**

Students will be required to write a paper. More details can be found in the syllabus.

**Speaking hours:**

Thursday, 11:00-12:00, or shortly before and after the seminar

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