

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME
PROF. DR. SOFIA PAGLIARIN**



Education Program SS 2020

(Main-)Seminar: Qualitative Methods of Comparative Social Inquiry

Room: F-21/03.03

Time: Wednesday, 16-18 h

Start: 22nd of April 2020

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.

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

Note:

To follow this course, students should have already previous knowledge or experience about qualitative methods. For beginners, it is recommended that students take this course during the Winter Semester.

Course structure:

The course is organised in sessions. Please note that the course is taught in English. An assignment is usually given for each session. Students are also expected to work on their research paper during the course so that feedback can be given.

Course Evaluation:

The best way to learn methods is by doing them. As such, students are required to carry out a limited research project using field methods. This research is to be carried out during the term. The resulting paper will be graded. More details can be found in the syllabus.

Course literature:

Articles and book chapters will be available online on the Virtual Campus. An appendix with further reading will be provided.

Course Syllabus:

The detailed Syllabus of the course will be circulated in due time

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Speaking hours:

Thursdays, 14:00-16:00 (also by appointment)

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