

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



**Education Program WS 2020/21**

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

**Room:** Online

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

**Start:** 4<sup>th</sup> of November 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. This is an introductory course, and hence it is addressed to students with no prior knowledge on qualitative methods. The course covers topics such as sampling, data collection through various field methods (e.g. interviews), comparative case studies and data analysis using MaxQDA software. We will also discuss the 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Students with no prior knowledge of qualitative methods are advised to take the course during the winter term 2021-2021.** Students that have some experience with qualitative methods are strongly advised to take the course during the summer term 2021.

**Course structure:**

The course is taught in English and it is organised in sessions. The lectures will take place online (Zoom). Further information on online lectures will be shared in due time on VC. Students are expected to work on their research paper during the course. Because of this, students will be regularly required to do an assignment for each session to develop their research while following the course. If possible and allowed, occasional face-to-face lectures might be organised following the current hygienic rules and regulations.

**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 (VC). An appendix with further reading will be provided.

**Course syllabus:**

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

**Speaking hours:**

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

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