

Qualitative courses

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The Methodology Institute's main qualitative courses available for MSc and PhD students are:

- Mi453 Fundamentals of research design (ten weeks, Michaelmas Term) and
- Mi454 Qualitative social research: interview, text and image (ten weeks, Lent Term)
- Mi555 Computer Packages for Qualitative Analysis (Lent Term)
- Mi526: Advanced Qualitative Analysis Seminars/Workshops (ad hoc events)
- MI424 Interviewing Skills Workshop (A one day course to be arranged during the Summer Term)

See below for course guides. Slides and further information are posted on the public folders (under Methodology Institute) as and when they become available.

MI453 Half Unit

Fundamentals of Research Design

This information is for the 20007/08 session.

Teacher responsible: Dr Jon Jackson, B812

Availability: Compulsory for MSc Social Research Methods, and MSc Statistics (Research), MSc Social Anthropology (Research) and MSc Gender (Research). Optional for MSc Local Economic Development, MSc Public Policy and Administration; also available for research students.

Core syllabus: The objective is to give students an appreciation of the basic concepts, debates and methodologies in social scientific research. The course is designed to enable students to critically evaluate empirical research, to understand the strengths and weaknesses of different methods and designs and to provide a foundation for research projects/dissertations.

Teaching: 10 x two-hours lectures in the MT. Five classes in the LT.

- Introduction: research as social inquiry
- Experimentation and causality
- Ethnography and participant observation
- Grounded theory
- Public opinion research: surveys and sampling
- Public opinion research: qualitative techniques and case selection
- Case studies
- Media analysis as social and cultural indicators
- The comparative method
- The pragmatics of research: management, ethics and dissemination.

Reading list

M W Bauer & G Gaskell (Eds), *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound: A Practical Handbook* (Sage, 2000); L Bickman & D Rog (Eds), *Handbook of Applied*

Social Research Methods (1998); M Dogan & A Kazancigil, *Comparing Nations: Concepts, Strategies and Substance* (Blackwell, 1994); A Fink & J Kosecoff, *How to Conduct Surveys. A Step by Step Guide* (Sage, 1985); J Habermas, *Knowledge and Human Interest* (1987); J Hughes, *The Philosophy of Social Research* (Longman, 1990); G King, R O Keohane & S Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Chapter 1 (Princeton University Press, 1994); D Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, 1991); R K Yin, *Case Study Research. Design and Method*, 2nd edn (Sage, 1994).

Assessment

A two-hour unseen examination.

This course starts on Friday 12th October in the Peacock Theatre (all others in the Old Theatre)

Please note that the lecture on 7th December will be from 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. in the Old Theatre, (rather than 3.00 - 5.00).

MI454 (Half Unit)

Qualitative Social Research: Interview, Text and Image

This information is for the 2007/8 session.

Teacher responsible: Dr Martin W Bauer, B804 and Dr Ilina Singh

Availability: Compulsory for MSc Social Research Methods and MSc Health, Community and Development; optional for MSc Gender (Research).

Core syllabus: Building on the module MI453 Fundamentals of Research Design this course covers the process of social research with an emphasis on qualitative inquiry. Given a research question and the requirement for evidence the process of research is captured in the stages of building of a corpus of data, for example texts or images, and in the choice among different analytic and interpretational approaches. The practicums will give students hands on experience of different techniques including software packages for the analysis of texts (MI555).

Teaching: Nine x two-hour lectures and in-class practica in the LT, including:

- Knowledge interests and qualitative inquiry
- Corpus construction
- Observation
- Grounded theory: indexing and memoing
- Content analysis: classical coding and text mining
- Rhetoric and argumentation analysis
- Discourse analysis
- Image analysis
- Data sources: quantitative data sets, qualitative and internet
- Computer-support for qualitative inquiry: an overview
- Quality indicators for qualitative inquiry

Reading list:

M Bauer & G Gaskell, *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound* (Sage, 2000); U Flick, *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* (Sage 1998).

Please Note: No single publication covers the whole content of the course.

Assessment

A two hour unseen examination. *Either:*

a. Half Unit: two hour unseen examination, MI454 only.

Or

b. Two hour unseen examination combining MI453 and MI454 (for MI4M1 and MI4M2).

This course starts on Friday 11th January 2008

MI555

Computing Packages for Qualitative Analysis

Teachers responsible: Kavita Abraham, B808

Availability: For MSc Social Research Methods and research students who intend to use qualitative computer packages in their research. Students also attend MI454.

Content:

It is intended to provide research students with an appreciation of various computer packages for qualitative analysis through introduction courses and hands-on training in the use of these tools.

Teaching:

2half-day introductory training courses on computer packages such as NUD*ist, Nvivo, TEXTSMART, ATLAS/ti and ALCESTE during the MT and LT.

Reading list: B Pfaffenberger, Microcomputer applications in qualitative research (1988); R Tesch, Qualitative Research; Analysis Types and Software Tools (1990); N G Fielding & R M Lee, Computer Analysis & Qualitative Research (Sage, 1998); E A Weitzman & M B Miles, Computer programs for qualitative data analysis (Sage, 1995).

Assessment:

This course is non-examinable.

Dates will be announced early in the Lent Term.

MI424 Interviewing Skills Workshop

Teachers responsible: To be arranged for 2007/8

Core syllabus The aim of this course is to give students the basic principles, conduct and analysis of in-depth interviewing of individuals, elites and groups.

Content: Basic concepts in qualitative research, sampling of respondents and the design of the topic guide; interviewing skills for individuals, elite respondents and groups; the analysis of qualitative data, reporting results and the issue of quality indicators in qualitative research.

Teaching: One-day course (to be arranged).

Assessment: Non-examinable.