

Qualitative Methods in Human Geography

Spring 2013

Brian J. Hracs and Irene Molina

Credits: 7.5 points

Level: PhD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the philosophical and methodological approaches to research in geography. Through seminar and lecture modules, students will acquire an understanding of different research paradigms and qualitative methods, and the knowledge necessary for developing sound and reflexive geographic research strategies. The goal of the course is to prepare students to formulate research questions, develop a geographic research proposal, to conduct rigorous research in the field and to understand and critically reflect upon the epistemological and ontological assumptions of their methodological choices.

Entry Requirements: Students must be admitted to the graduate program at the Department of Social & Economic Geography at Uppsala University or have the approval of the Department authorities to attend the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: Students are expected to complete all readings each week, submit one weekly question for discussion and to provide insightful classroom discussion. Remember - what you get out of a class reflects what you put into it.

Research Proposal (* or Alternative Written Assignment): The purpose of the proposal is to initiate some thoughtful reflection on what you want to do and how you want to do it. This should help while preparing for the research PM that students are expected to present after the first year of the PhD program. The proposal should be no longer than 8 pages single-spaced and should contain the following: i) intro paragraph to contextualize the research (i.e., introduce topic of research and justification for its importance including its geographic and/or planning relevance); ii) research question; iii) description of proposed methods and methodological perspectives (e.g., population to be studied, data to be collected and/or analysed, methods for collecting– this just represents your initial thoughts and ideas); and iv) timeline for conducting the research.

* Students who have already written and defended their proposals you will write a methods-based paper of equivalent size. The details of this paper will be agreed upon between the student and the instructors in advance.

Due Date: The written assignment is due by 5 p.m. On **Monday June 10th** (one week after the presentation).

Research Proposal Presentation: All students are required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to faculty and student members of the department. The purpose of the presentation is to improve your oral speaking skills but to also provide you with valuable feedback. Each student will be allocated 10 minutes for speaking and 5 minutes for answering questions from the audience. Each student will also be required to take notes and provide feedback to one of their classmates.

Course Attendance Policy: Full credit students are expected to attend each class and half credit students are expected to attend weeks (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13). To earn credits students are only permitted to miss 2 classes and must submit a one-page reflection about the readings for the missed week.

SCHEDULE

1: Introduction and Overview (Brian & Irene) February 18th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Dwyer, C. and M. Limb (2001) Introduction to Doing Qualitative Research in Geography. In Qualitative Methods for Geographers – Issues and Debates. Limb, M. and C. Dwyer. London: Arnold: 1-20.

Winchester, H. P. M. (2005). Qualitative Research and its Place in Human Geography. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 3-18.

Silverman, D (2001) “Doing Qualitative Research”. A practical Handbook. Thousand Oaks, California: 1-23.

Crang, M. (2002). Qualitative methods: the new orthodoxy? Progress in Human Geography **26**(5): 647-655.

2: Developing and Answering Research Questions: Quantitative vs. Qualitative (Irene) February 25th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Essletzbichler, J. (2009). Should Economic Geographers Count? Geography Compass **3**(1): 237-255.

Barnes, T. (2009). “Not Only ... But Also”: Quantitative and Critical Geography. The Professional Geographer **61**(3): 292-300.

Knigge L, Cope M, 2006, "Grounded visualization: integrating the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data through grounded theory and visualization" Environment and Planning A **38**(11) 2021 – 2037

Philip L J, (1998), "Combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to social research in human geography—an impossible mixture?" Environment and Planning A **30**(2) 261 – 276

3: Structuralism - Post-Structuralism (Irene)

March 4th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Baxter, J. and J. Eyles (1999). Prescription for research practice? Grounded theory in qualitative evaluation. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers **31**(2): 179-182.

Mansvelt, J. and L. D. Berg (2005). Writing Qualitative Geographies, Constructing Geographical Knowledge. In Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 248-265

Thien, Deborah (2005) After or beyond feeling?: a consideration of affect and emotion in geography, Area **37**(4): 450-456.

4: Discourse Theory & Analysis (Irene)

March 18th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Watt, G. (2005) Doing Discourse Analysis. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 163-191.

Hillier J, Gunder M, 2005, "Not over your dead bodies! A Lacanian interpretation of urban planning discourse and practice" Environment and Planning A **37**(6) 1049 – 1066

Culcasi, Karen (2012) Mapping the Middle East from Within: (Counter-) Cartographies of an Imperialist Construction. Antipode, Volume 44, Issue 4, pages 1099–1118, September 2012.

Wetherell, Margareth & Potter, J. (1992) Mapping the Language of Racism. Discourse and the Legitimation of Exploitation. Columbia University Press. Selected pages.

5: Ethics - The Role of the Researcher (Irene)

March 20th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Carmalt, Jean Connolly (2011) Human Rights, Care Ethics and Situated Universal Norms, Antipode Volume **43**, Issue 2, pages 296–325, March 2011.

Greenhough B, Roe E, 2011, "Ethics, space, and somatic sensibilities: comparing relationships between scientific researchers and their human and animal experimental subjects" Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **29**(1) 47 – 66

Dowling, R. (2005). Power, Subjectivity, and Ethics in Qualitative Research. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 19-29.

Madge, C. (2007). Developing a geographers' agenda for online research ethics. Progress in Human Geography **31**(5): 654-674.

Baxter, J. and J. Eyles (1997). Evaluating Qualitative Research in Social Geography: Establishing 'Rigour' in Interview Analysis. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers **22**(4): 505-525.

Bailey, C., C. White, et al. (1999). Response. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

31(2): 182-183.

Additional Reading for Reference (Not Required)

James, A. (2006). Critical moments in the production of 'rigorous' and 'relevant' cultural economic geographies. Progress in Human Geography 30(3): 289-308.

Bradshaw, M. (2001). Contracts and member checks in qualitative research in human geography: reason for caution? Area 33(2): 202-211.

Miller, T. and M. Boulton (2007). Changing constructions of informed consent: Qualitative research and complex social worlds. Social Science & Medicine 65: 2199-2211.

6: Conducting Surveys (Brian)
March 25th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Parfitt, J. (2005). Questionnaire design and sampling. Methods in Human Geography: A guide for students doing a research project. R. Flowerdew and D. Martin, Prentice Hall: 78-109.

Curtis, S., W. Gesler, et al. (2000). Approaches to sampling and case selection in qualitative research: examples in the geography of health. Social Science and Medicine 50: 1001-1014.

Campbell, L. M., N. J. Gray, et al. (2006). Gatekeepers and Keymasters: Dynamic relationships of access in geographical fieldwork. The Geographical Review 96(1): 97-121.

7: Conducting Interviews (Brian)
April 4th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Dunn, K. (2005). Interviewing. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 79-105.

Valentine, G. (2005) Tell me about...: using interviews as a research methodology. Methods in Human Geography: A guide for students doing a research project. R. Flowerdew and D. Martin, Prentice Hall: 110-126.

Hughes, A. (1999). Constructing economic geographies from corporate interviews: insights from a cross-country comparison of retailer-supplier. Geoforum 30: 363-374.

Elwood, S. A. and D. G. Martin (2000). "Placing" Interviews: Location and Scales of Power in Qualitative Research. The Professional Geographer 52(4): 649-657.

8: Conducting Focus Groups (Brian)
April 22nd – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Conradson, D. (2005). Focus groups. Methods in Human Geography: A guide for students doing a research project. R. Flowerdew and D. Martin, Prentice Hall: 128-143.

Cameron, J. (2005). Focusing on Focus Groups. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 116-132.

Hyams, M. (2004). Hearing girls' silences: thoughts on the politics and practices of a feminist method of group discussion. Gender, Place & Culture **11**(1): 105-119.

9: Conducting Observational and Participatory Research (Brian)

April 24th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Kearns, R. A. (2005). Knowing Seeing? Undertaking Observational Research. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 192-206.

Cook, I. (2005). Participant Observation. Methods in Human Geography: A guide for students doing a research project. R. Flowerdew and D. Martin, Prentice Hall: 167-185.

Laurier, E. and C. Philo (2006). Possible geographies: a passing encounter in a café. Area **38**(4): 353-363.

Kindon, S. (2005). Participatory Action Research. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 207-220.

10: Feminist Methodologies. (Brian)

***Guests Susanne Stenbacka & Gunnel Forsberg – Research methodologies and main actors in gender contract analysis.**

April 29th – 10:00- 12:00 – Room H413

Forsberg, G & Stenbacka, S. 2013, Mapping Gendered Ruralities, European Countryside, 5 (1), 1-20

Thien, Deborah (2009) An Exercise encouraging Gender Analysis in Research Practice, Journal of Geography in Higher Education, 33 (3)

Pratt, Geraldine (2010) Collaboration as feminist strategy. Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography, **17**:1, 43-48

Stenbacka S & Forsberg, G. 2013, Rumsliga genusanalyser med aktören i fokus, In: Förte, A; Kranvik, B; Gunnerud Berg, N & Dale, B. (eds) Å Finne sted. Metodologiske perspektiver i stedsanalyser, Trondheim; Akademika forlag, 123-141

11: Conducting Cross-Cultural and Community-Based Research (Brian)

May 6th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Howitt, S. and S. Stevens (2005) Cross-Cultural Research: Ethics, Methods, and Relationships. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 30-49.

Mohammad, M. (2001). 'Insiders' and/or 'outsiders': Positionality, theory and praxis. Qualitative Methodologies for Geographers: Issues and Debates. M. Limb and C. Dwyer. London, Oxford University Press: 101-120.

Miraftab, F. (2004). Can You Belly Dance? Methodological questions in the era of transnational feminist research. Gender, Place & Culture **11**(4): 595-604.

Mullings, B. (1999). Insider or outsider, both or neither: some dilemmas of interviewing in a cross-cultural setting. Geoforum **30**: 337-350.

Lopez, G. I., M. Figueroa, et al. (2008). Translation Barriers in Conducting Qualitative Research With Spanish Speakers. Qualitative Health Research **18**: 1729.

12: Analyzing Qualitative Data (Brian)

May 13th – 13:30-15:30 – Room H413

Crang, M. (2005). Analyzing qualitative materials. Methods in Human Geography: A guide for students doing a research project. R. Flowerdew and D. Martin, Prentice Hall: 218-232.

Cope, M. (2005). Coding Qualitative Data. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 223-233.

Schiellerup, P. (2008). Stop making sense: the trials and tribulations of qualitative data analysis. Area **40**(2): 163-171.

Crang, P. (1994). It's Showtime: on the workplace geographies of display in a restaurant in southeast England. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space **12**: 675-704.

13: Final Presentations (Brian & Irene)

June 3rd – 13:30-16:30 – Room Enequist

Monk, J. and R. Bedford (2005). Writing a Compelling Research Proposal. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. I. Hay. Oxford University Press: 51-66.