

PhD course

Introduction to Analysis in Qualitative Research

ECTS: 5

Teachers

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Course description

The course is divided into two parts: The first part takes place on August 25th to 27th and the second part takes place on December 9th and 10th. Between these two parts, students work independently and receive peer feedback on their analyses.

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the analytical work of qualitative research and the process of writing about their findings. Particular attention is paid to students' work with their own analyses. It is therefore a prerequisite for the course that students have collected at least some empirical material for their PhD dissertation. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between analytical approaches, tools, and practical conduct of analyzing the material and writing it up, as these are considered to be integral aspects of the analysis.

The first part of the course is structured around introduction to specific analytical approaches that are within the range of linguistic analysis (i.e., discourse, narrative) and analysis of meaning (i.e., grounded theory/coding and phenomenology). Here the core concerns will be: 1) relationship between theory and empirical problem, 2) introduction of analytical approach, and 3) tools for the practical handling of the analysis. The students will be working with each other and each other's material to make the points relevant to the analytical process.

In the time between the first and second parts of the course, students will work independently on their analyses, write about their results, and share their work in groups. The participants' analyses and manuscripts will be the central issues in the second part of the course with feedback from peers and teachers to further improve the quality of the analysis and writing. This will also involve discussions about how the concrete analysis and findings are related to each dissertation's overall objectives and research questions.

This course aims to give the students:

- 1) A practical understanding of the significance of choosing an analytical approach in relationship to the results/findings of the empirical work.
- 2) Concrete tools and a practical introduction to the analysis of empirical data within a qualitative study.
- 3) Know-how for writing about the results as an integral part of the analysis.
- 4) An opportunity to get feedback on a concrete, prepared part of an article or a chapter of a dissertation, including feedback on the quality of the results and implications.

Please note the following:

- The course focuses on qualitative research projects.
- PhD students at Business and Social Sciences, Aarhus University, are given first priority.
- Participants are required to attend both parts of the course – and the between-parts group work – to receive credit.
- About two weeks prior to Day 1 of the course, participants are required to submit a brief description of their research project (1–2 pages), including background, aims of the project, materials and methods, anticipated results, perspectives, and main challenges of the project. The description should be uploaded to Brightspace (LMS) – further information will follow.