Module: P 5 Qualitative Methods

Empirical Social Science Methods (Lecture)

Lecturer
Yannick Eckhardt

Target group
☐ B.Sc. ☒ M.Sc. ☐ LA

Proof of performance
Exam

Organization
Time: Mon. 10:00–12:00
Place: Richard-Wagner-Str. 10
Room: D102
ECTS: 3

Objective.
In the lecture, students learn to reflect on what it means to choose and apply qualitative methods to investigate social phenomena. Throughout the course, they develop an understanding of how different qualitative approaches yield distinct forms of empirical insight and what these approaches can and cannot reveal. The lecture is divided into four parts: First, students examine what distinguishes qualitative research and when it is useful for investigating social phenomena. The second part introduces methods of qualitative data collection, asking which approaches are suited to specific research purposes and how they shape the empirical material that can be generated. In the third part, students explore different qualitative methods for analyzing empirical material and developing findings. The final part considers what makes qualitative research convincing, and how qualitative findings can be compared across cases and complemented or combined through mixed methods.

No.	Date	Themes
		PART I — Why qualitative methods?
1	12.10.2026	What is qualitative research?
2	19.10.2026	When do we need qualitative research?
		PART II — How do we collect qualitative data?
3	26.10.2026	Interviewing: When and how should we ask people?
4	02.11.2026	Being there: When and how should we observe and participate?
5	09.11.2026	Making & Mapping: When and how should we make experience visible?
6	16.11.2026	Working with text: When and how should we work with existing material?
		Part III — How do we analyze qualitative data?
7	23.11.2026	From data to categories: How do we identify patterns?
8	30.11.2026	Documents & discourse: How are worlds constructed through text?
9	07.12.2026	Argumentation Analysis: How are claims justified?
10	14.12.2026	Explaining outcomes: How can qualitative research explain why?
		PART IV — What can we claim?
11	11.01.2027	Quality & trustworthiness: When is qualitative research convincing?
12	18.01.2027	Comparing & combining: What can we learn across cases and methods?
13	25.01.2027	Q & A
14	01.02.2027	Examination

Literature

Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S., Giardina, M. D., & Cannella, G. S. (Eds.). (2024). The SAGE handbook of qualitative research (Sixth edition). London: SAGE.

Flick, U. (2021). Qualitative Sozialforschung: Eine Einführung (10th ed.). Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag.

Hay, I., & Cope, M. (Eds.). (2021). *Qualitative research methods in human geography* (Fifth edition). Don Mills: Oxford University Press.