

Study guide – Qualitative methods

This course is about doing qualitative research. The course will engage with three more or less conventional qualitative methods; observation, interviews and document studies. These three methods are, however, further divided into analogue/digital, and stationary and mobile, possibly opening up for more uncharted territories:

- *Obeservation*: observe people digitally (e.g. digital footprints and on-line ‘live events’) as well as analogue (physical), stationary (one place) and mobile (e.g. shadowing).
- *Interviews*: digital (e.g. zoom, teams) and analogue (physical) and stationary (fixed place) and mobile (for example walking and talking interviews)
- *Document studies*: digital resources as well as more traditional analogue resources (e.g. paper documents, graffiti), including all sorts of formats (video, podcasts, music, poetry, etc.) and mobile documents (e.g. collaborative, ‘open-source’, documents) as well as stationary documents (e.g. reports, organizational maps).

We will organize the empirical work around a fixed research question, namely: “**How is it to be a student at Stockholm University?**” That is, you should apply the three different methods in order to attend to this particular research question.

Literature

Part of the demand of the course is to explore and review literature relating to the different qualitative methods that are being tested in the course. That is, there are no set of given literature that you *have to* read, and instead one of the assignments is to use relevant literature to reflect on your assignment.

Seminar dates

Seminar 1: Introduction 11/9, 15-17

Introduction to qualitative methods, the course and an overview of the assignments

Seminar 2: Observations 30/9, 14-17

During this seminar you will present and we will discuss your findings of an observation study.

Seminar 3: Interviews 16/10, 14-17

During this seminar you will present and we will discuss your findings of an observation study.

Seminar 4: Document Studies 28/10, 14-17

During this seminar you will present and we will discuss your findings of a document study.

Seminar 5: Wrap-Up 6/11, 14-17

Based on your main empirical findings, you will:

- Reflect on your research process and on the pros and cons of the methods applied

- Discuss and reflect on the added value of using the methods, including the possibilities for analysis when different methods are combined.

Deliverables

For each seminar (2-4), submit a written reflection addressing these key questions:

- Preparation: How did you prepare for the study?
- Execution: How did you carry out the study?
- Methodological Reflection: How did you experience the method used?

Each submission, 2000 words, must incorporate literature related to the specific method. Please send your reflection to everyone in the course, including seminar leaders, at least 3 days before the seminar.

For each seminar, prepare a PowerPoint presentation discussing the key questions as per above. This presentation, limited to 15 minutes, will be shared during the seminar.

For the Wrap-up seminar (no. 5), submit a written reflection addressing the following:

- Reflect on your research process, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the methods used during this course
- Reflect on your own research project and how these methods might or might not be valuable for your study.

This paper should be approximately 3000 words. Prepare PowerPoint slides to present your final paper at the last seminar, maximum 20 minutes.

Submit your paper to all course members, including seminar leaders, no later than 3 days before the seminar.