

SW808

Research Methodology and Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences

The class is aimed to offer a background for carrying out social research in post-colonial way. It is useful for students in different social sciences (such as sociology, social work, anthropology, psychology, economics, nursing science) and for activists/volunteers engaged with social change. The modalities of participative research-action are going to be explained; and gender intersectional approaches are discussed. Students will learn qualitative methods – particularly how to do interviews and focus groups – through theory lessons and practical simulations.

Readings

- Methods of Social Research (Bailey)
- Doing Qualitative Research (Silverman)
- Participatory Action Research (Alice McIntyre)
- Qualitative Research in Action (edited by Tim May)
- Action Research for Inclusive Education (editors Armstrong and Moore)
- Guide to Qualitative Methods in Organizational Research (editors Catherine Cassell, Gillian Symon)
- Interviews in Qualitative Research (King, Horrocks)
- In-depth interviews (Banaka)
- Group as Qualitative Method (David Morgan)
- Gender and Qualitative Methods (Helmi Järviluoma, Pirkko Moisala, Anni Vilkkö)
- Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods (David Morgan)
- Decolonizing Methodology (Linda Tuhiwae Smith)

Class Program

Week 1

The research problem. Relevance and goals. Explorative Research. Needs assessment. Participative research-action. Hypothesis formulation and choice of methods.

Week 2

On the field. Collecting data: recording observation, participative observation, conversations, biographies.

Week 3

The method of Interview. The questioning route. Choice of subjects, settings, timing. In-depth interview. Simulations. Transcribing and analyzing the content.

Week 4

Focus Groups. Simulations. Gender Research and Intersectional Methodology. Integrating qualitative and quantitative methods.

Final exam. The student will prepare a pilot research project and carry out the testing of 4 interviews.