

Qualitative Methods: Theory & PracticeIntroduction

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Introduction



Methodological Pluralism in Economics: A Feminist-Interpretative and Participatory Approach

- Feminist Science
- Social Economics
- Community Economies
- Participatory Action Research
- Community-Based Research

- Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- International Development
- Political Science
- Labour Market Economics
- Behavioural Economics

What is Qualitative Research?



Using non-numeric forms of data or empirical evidence

To answer questions that begin with:

Why? How? In which way(s)?

Quantitative Research provides responses to the questions of:

How many? How often? To what extent?

Qualitative data collection:

- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations & ethnographies
- Case studies

Qualitative data analysis:

- Content and thematic analysis
- Grounded theory
- (Critical) discourse analysis

'Quantitative' Method

'Qualitative' Method

Paradigm/Assumptions: positivism, empiricism

Methodology: scientific method, hypothesis-driven, deductive, reliable, valid, reproducible, objective, generalizable

Methods: large-scale, generally surveying

Data Type: quantitative

Analysis: statistics

Paradigm/Assumptions: subjectivism, interpretivism, constructivism

Methodology: ethnomethodology, phenomenology, ethnography, action research, inductive, subjective, idiographic, intuitive

Methods: small-scale, interviewing, observation, document analysis

Data Type: qualitative

Analysis: thematic exploration

FIGURE 7.6 ASSUMPTIONS RELATED TO THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE

Expectations & Assessment



Preparation

Attendance

Communication

Creativity & Criticality

→ be careful with AI

Course Credits:

Weekly tasks: answering questions, writing article reviews

Groupwork: preparing a presentation or interactive session

Final research proposals: due 31st of August 2025

Moodle



Gesellschaftswissenschaften > Sozioökonomie > Qualitative Methods: Theory & Practice

Course short name: Qual Methods_SS 2025

Enrolment Key: April_2025

Every week: new task available after class, to be completed *before* the next class

Please upload a photo to your profile!

Preliminary Syllabus



Open-Minded

Week	Date	Topic	Activity
1	7 th April	Introduction	Presentation
2	14 th April	Qualitative Methods in Economics	No Class
3	21st April	Public Holiday	Easter Monday
4	28 th April	Research Design	Presentation
5	5 th May	Philosophy and Theory	Presentation
6	12 th May	Case Studies	Presentation
7	19 th May	Interviews	Role-playing semi-structured interviews
8	26 th May	Focus Groups - NS	Mock focus group discussion
9	2 nd June	Ethnography	Mini-fieldwork exercise
10	9 th June	Public Holiday	Pentecost Monday
11	16 th June	Content Analysis	Collaborative coding exercise
12	23 rd June	Grounded Theory	Inductive interview coding
13	30 th June	Mixed & Multiple Methods	Presentation
14	7 th July	Research Design Revisited	No Class
15	14 th July	Research Proposal Preparation	Presentation

Call for Papers 2025

Call for Papers 6th Pluralumn* Workshop

August 27-29, 2025
University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany and
Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany



The Pluralumn* group of the German Network for Pluralism in Economics calls for papers and presentations for its 6th Scientific Workshop. The workshop is open to all young scholars and early-career researchers, such as advanced Bachelor and Master students, PhD students and PostDocs. This year, the Pluralumn* Workshop is jointly organized by the Europa-Universität Flensburg and the University of Hamburg. The workshop takes place exclusively at the University of Hamburg.

https://www.plurale-oekonomik.de/workshop-2025/