



## Правительство Российской Федерации

### Федеральное государственное автономное образовательное учреждение высшего профессионального образования "Национальный исследовательский университет "Высшая школа экономики"

#### Факультет Социологии

#### Программа дисциплины

#### Qualitative methods (Качественные методы исследований)

для направления 040100.68 «Социология» подготовки магистра  
для магистерской программы «Сравнительные социальные исследования»

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Ученый секретарь \_\_\_\_\_

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*Настоящая программа не может быть использована другими подразделениями университета и другими вузами без разрешения разработчика программы.*



## **Course overview**

The course aims to introduce students to the use of qualitative methods in sociological research. The students will be able to learn the basic fundamentals of qualitative inquiry from research design to data collection and analysis. They will be introduced to practical skills in qualitative data collection, including unstructured, semi-structured and structured interviews, focus groups, writing field notes and participant observation. In addition to methods for gathering data, they will learn the fundamentals of qualitative data analysis, for example how to interpret interview data, and how to identify and relate salient pieces of data to theory. Finally, students will be able to engage in self-reflection on their position as researcher in the field and on the research process itself, for example ethical considerations that may arise during field research.

## **Learning outcomes**

- The students will have learned the basic fundamentals of qualitative inquiry
- The students will master various qualitative methods; they will be able to design a research project by relying on these methods and choose appropriate ones to answer their research question
- The students will have gained knowledge of what an ethnographic field is and be able to use appropriate methods to gather data in the field
- The students will be able to frame a theoretical problem into a qualitative inquiry
- The students will master techniques to interpret data and frame qualitative data into an appropriate theoretical framework

## **Grading**

- Attendance (10%)
- Participation (20%)
- Oral presentation based on the reading material with a written hand out (30%)
- Written research proposal (40%)

## **Required reading**

Atkinson, Paul, Amanda Coffey, Sara Delamont, John Lofland and Lyn Lofland, eds., *Handbook of Ethnography*. London: Sage Publications, 2007

Berg, Bruce L. and Howard Lune. 2012. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences, 8th Edition*. Boston: Pearson

Charmaz, Kathy. 2006. *Constructing Grounded Theory*. London: Sage Publications.

Corbin, Juliet and Anselm Strauss. 2008. *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*, 3rd Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Emerson, Robert M. 2001. *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland

Geertz, Clifford. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 1973



Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P., *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), 2007

Johnson, Jeffrey C. 1998 Research design and research strategies. In *Handbook of methods in cultural anthropology*. R.H. Bernard, ed. Pp. 131-171. Walnut Creek (CA): Altamira Press

Rubin, Herbert J. and Irene S. Rubin. 1995. *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*

Silverman, David. 2011. *Interpreting Qualitative Data, 4th Edition*. Los Angeles: Sage

Van Maanen, John. *Tales of the Field: On Writing Ethnography*. Chicago University Press, 2011

## **Structure of the course**

### ***I. Introduction to qualitative research***

#### **1. What is qualitative inquiry?**

Introduction to the course.

How to situate qualitative inquiry and ethnography in the social sciences (historical background).

What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative approaches in the social sciences?

#### Required reading

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'What is ethnography?', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 1-19.

#### **2. What is ethnography? The concept of ethnographic field, what is fieldwork?**

The constructed nature of ethnographic fieldwork

The positioning of the researcher in the field (including ethical considerations)

#### Required reading

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'What is ethnography?', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 1-19.

Hammersley, Martin. 1992. *What's Wrong With Ethnography? Methodological Explorations*. New York: Routledge.

### **3. Qualitative inquiry and research design**

#### Required reading

Hammersley, M., Atkinson, P. Research design: problems, cases, samples // Hammersley, M., Atkinson, P. *Ethnography: principles in practice*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press. 2007 [1983]. Pp. 20-40.

Creswell J.W. *Qualitative inquiry and research design*. 2013.

### ***II. Research methods and data collection***

#### **4. Entering and exiting the field I. Participant observation and writing fieldnotes, diary**



### Required reading

## **5. Entering and exiting the field II. Ethnographic fieldnotes, positioning of the researcher, relation with the subjects**

How to establish relations with the subjects in the field.

### Required reading

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'Field relations', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 63-96.

Van Maanen, John. *Tales of the Field: On Writing Ethnography*. Chicago University Press, 2011

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

## **6. Conducting interviews**

Sampling strategies, types of interviews, how to conduct an interview.

### Required reading

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'Oral accounts and the role of interviewing', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 97-120.

Barbara Sherman Heyl "Ethnographic Interviewing" in Aitken, Paul, Amanda Coffey, Sara Delamont, John Lofland and Lyn Lofland, eds., *Handbook of Ethnography*. London: Sage Publications, 2001.

## **III. Data analysis**

## **7. Qualitative analysis and interpretation of data: from data to theory**

How to interpret and analyse interview data and fieldnotes and how to identify and relate salient pieces of data to theory.

What is grounded theory?

### Required reading

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'The process of analysis', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 158-190.

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. 2007. 'Writing ethnography', in Hammersley, M. and Atkinson P. (eds.): *Ethnography. Principles in practice*, London-New York: Routledge (third edition), pp. 191-208.

Charmaz, Kathy. 2006. *Constructing Grounded Theory*. London: Sage Publications, pp.1-10, pp. 123-148.