

Intitulé du cours/séminaire

Research design for social work research

Equipe d'enseignement

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Périodes d'enseignement

Friday, September 30th, 13:45-17h15

Friday, October 14th, 13:45-17h15

Contenu

The aim of this seminar is to equip the students with methodological knowledge, patterns of thought and concrete application to elaborate their own research design for their PhD study.

Research design is the “glue” that holds the theoretical and empirical parts of the research together. It structures the research, builds its coherence and presents a roadmap for its execution. It is an arrangement of conditions that allows to control variance and to conceive data collection and analysis in a manner that presents a logical basis for countless decisions with adequate feasibility and procedure.

In this seminar students will learn to appreciate the inherent logic behind each research design that will be collectively derived from concrete examples and consolidated in class. They will acquaint themselves with different types of research designs along with their related control pathways and will discuss the adequateness of each, to certain types of research questions, while considering social science research quality criteria.

In particular we will delve into the case study research design widely used in social work research and discuss the central notion of comparison.

Forme d'évaluation

Based on a research question, submit 1 A4 page until the 28.10.2022:

- graphically representing the (potential) research design
- situating the research question in a possible theoretical framework, or at least in a body of literature
- indicating the constants, the variables / the cases
- discussing the type of control
- arguing the pertinence of the research design for the research question, based on the quality criteria
- discussing potential biases
- indicating potential data-gathering methods

Documentation

Brady H., Collier B. (2004). Rethinking Social Inquiry. Diverse Tools, Shared Standards. Rowman & Littlefield

Campbell A., Taylor B.J, McGlade A. (2016). Research Design in Social Work: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods. Sage Publications

Stinchcombe A.L. (2005). The Logic of Social Research. The University of Chicago Press

Yin R.K. (2009). Case Study Research. Design and Method. Sage Publications

Pré-requis

Some coursework in research methodology or research experience is of advantage.

Forme de l'enseignement

This seminar is conducted as a workshop and includes moments of collective reflection moderated by the faculty and consolidated in class with support of theoretical inputs. The application of discussed designs is experimented in group work and drawing upon student's research projects as cases. On the second day time is reserved to discuss 1-2 student projects.

Objectif d'apprentissage

- Understand the purpose of elaborating a research design
- Be familiar with different types of research design and know to argue the adequateness of each in relation to particular types of research questions
- Understand the centrality of comparison to grasp causality
- Distinguish variables, constants and different types of case constellations
- Consider social science research quality criteria when elaborating a research design