UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Qualitative Social Research

**2122-1-F8802N008**

## Learning objectives

The module aims to offer the essential conceptual tools to construct a qualitative analysis of social phenomena, as well as to provide a guide to the related research methods and techniques. In this respect, its main goal is an integration between epistemological and methodological presuppositions with qualitative research techniques.

## Contents

The course aims at strengthening the interdependence between some sociological approaches and qualitative techniques and methods ( the various forms of interview and the digital telling) by tutorials and group works

## Detailed program

The module will be divided into three parts. The first part explores the epistemological, theoretical, and methodological premises of a qualitative social research. Particular attention will be paid to the interactionist and phenomenological approaches, the field theory, and the grounded theory and life history methods. The second one focuses on the interdependence among a conceptual framework, research methods and techniques in the research design. As regards techniques and analysis techniques, special attention will be given to narrative interviews, life stories, focus groups, and the multimodal digital storytelling. In the third parts the students will participate in group works and tutorials making use of the methods and techniques discussed. Furthermore, strategies in analysis and scientific writing will be discussed.

## Prerequisites

A good knowledge of sociological theories and of the main tools of the social science research

## Teaching methods

Frontal lessons; seminars; group works; tutorials; research reports by the students attending the lessons.

Students who cannot attend the physical classroom can participate in the live streaming classroom

## Assessment methods

Written exam for non attending students. Short written dissertations for students attending the lessons. The dissertations, partly devoted to the empirical research results, will be discussed during the exam.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials


· Denzin, K. (1978), *The research act*. London: Routledge (1.1. *The point of view*, pp. 3-35; 2.4. *The sociological interview*, pp. 112-134; 3.8 *The comparative life history methods*, pp. 214-255.

· Gray, A. (2003), *Research practices for cultural studies*. London: Sage (pp. 57-190) [E-BOOK]

· Suddick et al. (2020), The work of Hermeneutic Phenomenology. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 19: 1-14.

· Kulnick et al. (2020), When Values Get in the Way of Conversations: Reflections on Dealing with Discriminatory Remarks and Behaviors in Qualitative Interviewing. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 19: 1-13.

· Mueller, R. A. (2019), Episodic narrative interview: capturing stories of experience with a methods fusion. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods,* 18: 1-11.

· Lang, M. et al (2019), Words, Camera, Music, Action: A methodology of Digital Storytelling in a Health Care Setting. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 18: 1-10.

· Gomes Pessoa, A. (2019), Using Reflexive Interviewing to Foster Deep Understanding of Research Participants' Perspectives. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 18: 1-9.

· Savage, M. and Silva, B. Elizabeth (2013), Field Analysis in Cultural Sociology. *Cultural Sociology* 7(2): 111-126.

· Smithson J. (2007) Focus groups. In P. Alasuutari (ed.), *Social research Methods* (pp. 356-371). London: Sage Handbook.

· Li, B. Y., and Ho, T. H (2019), Unveiling the Unspeakable: integrating video elicitation Focus Group Interviews and Participatory Video in an Action Research Project on Dementia Care Development. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 18: 1-10.

· Timmermans, S. & Tavory, I. (2012), Theory construction in qualitative research: from grounded theory to abductive analysis. Sociological Theory, 30(3): 167-186.

· Tie Y. C., Birks, M., & Francis, K. (2019), Grounded theory research: A design framework for novice researchers, *Sage Open Medicine*, 7: 1-8. (available online)

The texts are available by the print shop Fronteretro, Via Sarca 191