UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

## Turno E - Metodologia della ricerca - Leggere e interpretare i dati

**2122-2-F8701N033-TE**

### Learning objectives

SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY LABORATORY - READING AND INTERPRETING DATA

Following a Social Research Methodology Laboratory is an opportunity for students to learn and deepen, mainly through exercises, elements of Social Research Methodology, with particular attention to some aspects useful for professional activity in the social field (programming, design , evaluation) and the final thesis work. The PROGEST theses, in fact, provide for a large majority, whatever the chosen topic, the use of techniques and tools of empirical research and data analysis.

Two laboratories have been designed, each corresponding to 3 CFU, in a path logic. You can follow both laboratories, or the laboratory that best matches your training needs, anticipating it, at your discretion, already in the first year

- In the first laboratory (**Reading and interpreting the data**), the objective is to provide the methodological tools to correctly read and interpret the statistical data and research results, both in view of the thesis and for a better understanding of the contents of the individual courses of the plan of studies, where statistical sources or research data are used

- In the second (**Research tools for theses**), the objective is both to facilitate the construction of the thesis structure, and in particular the design of the empirical part, and to offer tools for the analysis of the data used, or collected on the field, and the presentation of the results.

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### Contents

LABORATORY - READING AND INTERPRETING THE DATA

Some methodological issues are addressed (multiplicity of research designs, conceptualization processes, indicator systems), taking into consideration issues of particular relevance in the current debate on socio-economic situation, such as social indicators and poverty, employment and unemployment, well-being and social development, inequality indices

Calendar of meetings :

10 marzo giovedì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 711

17 marzo giovedì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 711

24 marzo giovedì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 712

25 marzo venerdì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 713

31 marzo giovedì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 711

1 aprile venerdì 9,30-13,30 – U7 – Laboratorio informatico Lab 713

The Laboratory does not have a closed number. Registration is spontaneous, through the e-learning platform.

## Detailed program

The program is divided into three parts:

· TYPES OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH PHASES - Analysis of research on poverty carried out through surveys samples, use of administrative data sources, field research with qualitative techniques and tools

· CONCEPTUALIZATION AND OPERATION - Data analysis and research on employment and unemployment, at national and European level, to reason on the operational definitions underlying concepts old and new that describe the trend of the labor market in official statistics

· INDICATORS, INDICATOR SYSTEMS, INDEXES - Examples of indicators of well-being, poverty and inequality. How we try to measure and compare the condition of the different territorial realities (regions, states) through synthetic values constructed on the basis of a multiplicity of data collected by national bodies and supranational (BES, OECD, UNDP etc.)

## Prerequisites

A basic knowledge of the fundamental elements of Methodology of social research acquired on previous occasions is supposed.

For those who have never followed courses in Methodology of social research, or even have never analyzed under the methodological profile of empirical research, we refer to what is reported in the section: "**Conoscenze preliminari**", in the platform.

In particular, we recommend, for those who have not already done so in the past, the reading / filing of a quantitative and qualitative research, both as regards the contents and from the methodological point of view: always in the "**Conoscenze preliminari**" section you can find a list of searches and a guide-book for reading.

## Teaching methods

The program is carried out through voice presentations by the teachers, supported by an organic series of schemes that represent the sequence of contents presented in each meeting (slides), and by references to constantly updated materials (mainly accessible on websites).

**The exercises** are introduced, and followed, by the teachers.

- The Laboratory, **designed and organized to be attended by students**, has always provided for the possibility of being followed also by non-attending students.

- In the event of maintaining a distance teaching, in addition to the slides, materials, instructions for the exercises, which have always been present on the platform, video recordings of the meetings will also be made available to students

The materials will therefore include:

- the recorded presentation of the topics of the day, accompanied by the related slides (which constitute the framework of the meeting), and the instructions (also recorded) relating to the exercises to be carried out on those topics

- the links or documents necessary for the exercises

- bibliographical indications, links and in-depth documents on the different topics covered

Starting from the first meeting, and progressively on each of the other days, the students will have available on the platform the materials relating to the topics covered, which will remain accessible until after the end of the Laboratory: you will be able to access the materials made available on the website at any time platform.

Both teachers are available for clarification on the Laboratory, on the different topics covered, on the execution of the exercises.

## Assessment methods

The acquisition of skills is verified through the execution of the exercises proposed during the meetings. The suitability assessment is based on participation, even remotely, and on the production of written exercises relating to the different parts of the laboratory

The teachers are expected to return the commentary on the exercises to each student.

A certificate of suitability will be issued with the specification of the competences achieved and the 3 corresponding ECTS.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

On the individual topics, the bibliography and especially the sitography - given the laboratory and practical nature of the meetings which widely uses databases, reports, documentation - is gradually indicated in the "slides" in relation to the individual articulations of the topics addressed

Considering that the assessment is essentially based on the exercises, the following are recommended to students above all useful texts as support or consultation for the performance of the exercises required during the Laboratory:

The methodological topics presented in the Laboratory are generally dealt with in the manuals

Corbetta Piergiorgio, *Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale*, Il Mulino Bologna 2014 (II ed), Amaturo Enrica, *Metodologia della ricerca sociale*, Utet Novara 2012

They also constitute in-depth texts on various methodological contents:

- on Mixed Methods: Mauceri Sergio, *Qualità nella quantità*, Franco Angeli Milano 2019
- on qualitative research: Cardano Mario, *La ricerca qualitativa*, Il Mulino Bologna 2011
- on statistics from institutional sources: Pintaldi Federica, *Come si analizzano i dati territoriali*, Franco Angeli Milano, 2009
- on classifications and typologies: Faggiano Maria Paola, *Gli usi della tipologia nella ricerca sociale empirica*, Franco Angeli Milano 2011
- on secondary analysis: Biolcati Rinaldi F., Vezzoni C., *L'analisi secondaria nella ricerca sociale. Come rispondere a nuove domande con dati già raccolti,* Il Mulino Bologna 2013

As for the recommended texts as they report research results on various topics and can be good examples both from the point of view of the applied methodologies and from the point of view of the results, please refer to the **Conoscenze preliminari** section on the platform and -learning