



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Training and Research Methods in The Humanities

2627-2-F8502R025

Module description

This module aims to explore the potential for adopting an ecological paradigm in social science research. By an 'underlying framework', we mean one that is not necessarily linked to an 'ecological' research topic, such as environmental issues or sustainability, but rather one characterised by the need to establish clear coherence among its various elements while remaining compatible with a plurality of epistemological and ontological perspectives. In practice, this involves focusing 'ecologically' on the objects of one's study (how should they be interpreted in terms of interconnectedness, and what limits should be set in this regard?), one's method (how can one devise an approach that addresses one's questions in a way that is not merely linear and instrumental?), one's operational tools (how should they be constructed, and how should data be collected?), the relationship with participants (how can one-way, purely 'extractive' relationships be avoided?), the interpretation of results (to what extent can self-reference be moved beyond?), and dissemination (how can research results become part of a community?).

The course will explore these issues by demonstrating that there is no single way to address them, but rather a variety of possible balances between the demands of an ecological vision and the need to establish 'refuges'.

The course aims to explore these issues by showing that there is not just one way of dealing with them, but many possible ways to balance the demands of an ecological perspective and the need to introduce 'reductions in complexity'. To this end, it will present examples of various research projects in the social sciences.

Learning goals

The objective of the module is to provide an understanding of some of the features related to the possibility of identifying an "ecological research paradigm" within the social sciences and to decline it along all the elements that mark the articulation of a research design (research question, object, method, relationship with participants, analysis of results, dissemination). The module also intends to highlight the need for individual positioning with respect to the multiple decisions that an "ecological" vision urges, particularly in an ethical sense.

General goal

Promote reflection on the possibility of designing, performing and communicating ecologically informed research in the social sciences, understanding its opportunities, constraints and limitations; explore the plurality of theoretical and methodological possibilities within the ecological paradigm; develop critical positioning.

Specific skills and competences

Know how to identify the elements that delineate an ecological paradigm within social science research.

Know how to discuss and analyze some possible options that remain consistent with the idea of ecologically oriented research.

Know how to position oneself critically with respect to the research choices described in the course.

Know how to decline the themes of the course on a research object of one's own interest.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

Ob. 4 Quality education

Ob. 5 Gender equality

Ob. 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Breakdown of meetings

The course timetable will be provided at a later date.

Attendance is mandatory for at least 75% of classes.

Number of participants

Unlimited

Language used in meetings

The course is taught in English.

Delivery period of the module

April and May 2027

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

For those who wish to have the module recognized, by completing it together with the other three teaching units included in the course "Training and Research Methods in the Humanities," a short written essay is required, which will be graded. The final assessment of the course will consist of the average of the grades for the four teaching units.

The exam consists of evaluating a short, written essay prepared by the students. Each participant will identify a topic of interest to critically explore, based on the discussions and experiences from the course, and with the support of materials agreed upon with the teacher (for example: a book, some scientific articles, or some guidance documents). The project is to be completed in the form of a paper to be written in person during the last lesson of the module.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Department of Human Sciences for Education "R. Massa"

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
