

**Welcome to a course in Qualitative Research Methods (7, 5 higher education credits) for  
PhD Candidates within the Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Gothenburg**

This qualitative methods course is a part time and day time course provided for all PhD candidates within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Gothenburg. The course will be given during spring term 2018, beginning January 16 (week 3) and ending March 29 (week 13). The course is scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The course consists of three main parts and parallel workshops. (1) An introductory part common for all course participants providing lectures dealing with general methodological issues within the field of qualitative research. (2) A main part where each PhD candidate *chooses two (out of three) specializations within the qualitative methods repertoire*. The selectable modules are: case-based comparative analysis, discourse analysis and grounded theory. This part of the course is based on practical exercises in combination with lectures and seminar discussions. (3) A concluding part comprising the PhD candidates' presentations of their own final papers, and responses to their colleagues' work. *In addition*, in parallel workshops PhD candidates are introduced to computer programs for transcribing and analysing qualitative data.

The course leader and coordinator is Cecilia Hansen Lofstrand, Associate professor, Department of Sociology and Work Science. E-mail: [Cecilia.Lofstrand@gu.se](mailto:Cecilia.Lofstrand@gu.se), phone: 031-786 4766

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If you wish to take this course, please notify Anna-Karin Wiberg by sending an e-mail as soon as possible to: [Anna-Karin.Wiberg@gu.se](mailto:Anna-Karin.Wiberg@gu.se) Deadline Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**Please provide the following information:** your full name, social security number, your department and your department e-mail address. **Please choose and state** which two course modules you prefer to take. Below you can find a short description of each module.

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*The following four modules will be taught, provided that there will be sufficient applicants:*

### **Module: Case-based comparative analysis**

Teacher: Helena Olofsdotter Stensöta, Associate professor, Department of Political Science, [helena.stensota@pol.gu.se](mailto:helena.stensota@pol.gu.se)

In-depth studies of one or a few cases, often based on qualitative data, constitute a cornerstone in the tradition of social science methods. This module discusses first, the type of research problems that needs to be investigated through these types of studies, second, principles behind case-selection and design of studies, third, data-collection and fourth, how to actually analyze this type of material. In the current module we address and work with some crucial issues within the field: un-packing the characters of a case (key dimensions), basic logic of comparison (differences and similarities), and Process tracing (PT).

### **Module: Discourse analysis**

Teacher: Mats Ekström, Professor, Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, [mats.ekstrom@gu.se](mailto:mats.ekstrom@gu.se)

Discourse analysis in social science is a methodological approach for analysing language use in society. There are many different approaches to discourse analysis. This module provides a general introduction to discourse analysis, including ontological and epistemological underpinnings, and then introduces students to two different approaches: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Conversation Analysis (CA), the latter focusing specifically on interaction in institutional settings. Course participants will prepare data sessions where CDA and CA, respectively, are applied on concrete texts.

### **Module: Grounded Theory**

Teacher: Gabriella Elgenius, Associate professor, Department of Sociology and Work Science, [gabriella.elgenius@gu.se](mailto:gabriella.elgenius@gu.se)

Grounded Theory is a widely used and popular qualitative research method across a wide range of social science disciplines and subject areas. It can be adopted by researchers who hold different theoretical perspectives, focus on various levels of analysis, and address diverse areas, e.g. social justice research, policy analyses, organizational studies, societal issues and social psychology, and can be used with a variety of qualitative data. The module provides a general overview of the theory and practice of grounded theory, including major standpoints within the field. It teaches systematic guidelines for analysing qualitative data to construct theories 'grounded' in the data using an iterative-inductive approach. Special focus is placed on hands-on application of these techniques.

*Workshops introducing course participants to computer programs for transcribing and analysing qualitative data*

**Transcribing qualitative data – using computer software programs**

Teacher: Christel Backman, PhD, Department of Sociology and Work Science,  
[christel.backman@socav.gu.se](mailto:christel.backman@socav.gu.se)

The workshops provide a brief introduction to issues involved in the production of transcripts (or 'data'). Students will also practice transcribing data using one (or more) computer software program(s). We will discuss choices involved in producing transcripts, especially in relation to research problems and purpose, but also in relation to ontological and epistemological points of departure and ethical aspects.

**Analysing qualitative data – using computer software programs**

Teacher: Petra Boström, PhD, Department of Psychology,  
[petra.bostrom@psy.gu.se](mailto:petra.bostrom@psy.gu.se)

Researchers using qualitative methods tend to manage large quantities of data (transcripts, auditory or visual documents). To enhance the manageability of such quantities of data, several computer software programs have been developed. During this course two workshops will focus on the Atlas.ti software – a widely used program for qualitative analysis. The knowledge of Atlas.ti is transferable to other software as it has the same basic structure, although details may differ. Students will have the opportunity to work with data from their doctoral research projects or course project to practice structuring of data through coding, creation of themes or categories, and building models.