

### **Qualitative Research 7,5 credits**

Kvalitativ forskning 7,5 hp

Third cycle

The syllabus is not set but refers to the autumn semester 2020.

### **Prerequisites and Conditions of Admission**

General entry requirements for third-cycle programmes.

### **Course Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to give the participants an in-depth introduction to qualitative research, its design, and its execution.

Following successful completion of the course the student should:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- recognize the uniqueness and distinctiveness of qualitative research, particularly in contrast to positivist and postpositivist research cultures.
- distinguish qualitative methodological approaches and types of qualitative inquiry and appreciate their advantages and limitations.
- understand when a research topic requires qualitative research methods.
- develop an in-depth understanding of what type of qualitative data collection instrument is appropriate to answer a specific qualitative research question.
- become acquainted with published research articles modeling theoretical, methodological, and empirical decisions in the qualitative study of innovation sciences-related problems and issues.

#### *Skills and ability*

- can use different methods of qualitative data collection and analysis.
- can design a qualitative study by taking into consideration the key elements of a qualitative research process, from data collection to analysis and interpretation.
- can design a qualitative paper.

#### *Judgement and approach*

- argue for different methodological choices related to the qualitative research process.
- demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects in conjunction with qualitative research.
- demonstrate skills in managing selected design, data collection, analysis, and writing strategies of qualitative research, via exercises.

### *Primary Contents*

The course is divided into four parts.

The first part addresses qualitative research paradigms and ethical aspects.

The second part is about sampling, types of qualitative data collection as well as common mistakes during data collection.

The third part refers to transcription methods and approaches to data analysis.

Finally, the fourth part addresses quality aspects of qualitative research and publishing qualitative research.

### **Teaching Formats**

The course will be delivered on distance with digital tools.

Teaching is done through lectures, seminars, and supervision. Teaching is conducted in English.

### **Examination**

The grades awarded are Pass (P) or Fail (F). For the course grade of Pass (G), the student must be awarded a passing grade on all tests.

The course is examined based on three assignments. Assignment 1 will be presented and defended at seminars, while assignments 2 and 3 will be examined based on the essay submitted. Assignment 1 asks the students to write about the legitimacy of qualitative research for their particular study. Assignment 2 allows students to critique the qualitative data collection of a selected scientific article, and assignment 3 consists of the development of an introduction section for a qualitative paper.

Name of the test		Grading
Assignment 1	2 credits	F/P
Assignment 2	2 credits	F/P
Assignment 3	3,5 credits	F/P

Deadlines for assignments:

Assignment 1: Sent in electronically by Dec 4 at the latest

Assignment 2: Presentation in class on Dec 10

Assignment 3: Sent in electronically by Dec 23 at the latest

If a disabled student has been granted learning support through a decision by Halmstad University, the examiner may decide on an adapted or alternative form of assessment for this student.

### **Course Evaluation**

Course evaluation is part of the course. This evaluation should offer guidance in the future development and planning of the course. Course evaluations should be documented and made available to the students.

### **Schedule (November-December 2020)**

18<sup>th</sup> November - Sessions 1 & 2 (4h)

4<sup>th</sup> December - Sessions 3 & 4 (4h)

10<sup>th</sup> December - Sessions 5 & 6 (4h)

15<sup>th</sup> December - Sessions 7 & 8 (4h)

18<sup>th</sup> December - Sessions 9 & 10 (4h)

### **Lecturer/Examiner**

Professor Susanne Durst is Professor of Management and Head of Research Unit Organization and Management at Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) and Professor of Business Administration, University of Skövde (Sweden). She is also a Visiting Professor at Halmstad University. Her research interests include small business management, knowledge (risk) management, open innovation and responsible digitalization. She has been conducting several national and international research projects on knowledge management, SME business transfers, marketing, corporate governance, and innovation management. Her work has been recognized through different awards and has been published in international peer-reviewed journals.

### **Course Literature**

Creswell, J.W. (2013) *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design. Choosing Among Five Approaches*. Sage, Thousand Oaks

Tracy, S. J. (2010) *Qualitative Quality: Eight “Big-Tent” Criteria for Excellent Qualitative Research*. *Qualitative Inquiry* Vol. 16 No. 10, pp. 837–851

Saunders, M.N.K. and Townsend, K. (2016) *Reporting and Justifying the Number of Interview Participants in Organization and Workplace Research*. *British Journal of Management*, Vol. 27, pp. 836–852. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8551.12182

Saunders, B. Sim, J., Kingstone, T. *et al.* (2018). *Saturation in qualitative research: exploring its conceptualization and operationalization*. *Qual Quant*, Vol. 52, pp. 1893–1907.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-017-0574-8>

Symon, G. and Cassell, C. (2012) *Qualitative Organizational Research. Core Methods and Current Challenges*. Sage, London.

Further scientific articles based on qualitative research.

This can also include additional materials that the students will independently search for to complete the assignments.

### **Applying for the Course**

1. Discuss course participation with your supervisors prior to applying.
2. Please email the examiner expressing your interest in participating.

### **Contact Information**

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