

Winter school on advanced qualitative methodology and theorizing in Economic Geography

To be held at the Center for Regional Economic Development (CRED), University of Bern, Switzerland in February 2023

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Time: Feb. 6-10. 2023

Deadline of application: October. 1. 2022

Target groups

This Winter School is open to post-fieldwork PhD students and postdocs who work with qualitative research methods in economic geography. This is an advanced course that requires prior knowledge and experience in qualitative research methods. The course involves circa 168 hours workload.

Place: CRED, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Application materials: Please fill in the application form attached by the end of this call

No. of participants: 20-25

Course content

This winter school aims to develop advanced PhD students' and Postdoctoral researchers' understanding of rigorous research with qualitative methods in economic geography and beyond. Participants will be introduced to established and emerging novel qualitative methods in the social sciences. Useful techniques in improving the rigor of advanced qualitative research will be covered as well. We will involve participants deeply during the 5-day training, and help them to develop a solid and sophisticated understanding of the different qualitative methods that are used in their own research.

Learning objectives

After finishing this course, participants have developed their:

- Understanding of advanced theorizing using classic qualitative methods such as case study research designs, grounded theories, interviewing, etc.

- Knowledge of novel qualitative methods and related philosophical considerations
- Ability to make and justify choices in the design of qualitative research methods
- Ability to apply useful techniques to facilitate the entire theorizing process
- Insights in reporting and publishing rigorous qualitative studies

Course design

The course is organized around five full day sessions in February 2023 and several individual assignments throughout the Winter School. Each session is dedicated to one aspect of qualitative methods, and will consist roughly of two parts: an interactive morning part in which topics are introduced by experienced lecturers, and an afternoon part in which participants engage in exercises and present and discuss the methods in relation to their own work. Participants are expected to come well prepared to these sessions.

Invited lecturers and topics covered:

General introduction on theories and theorizing

- Roel Rutten, Tilberg University, the Netherlands: “Complex causality and QCA”
- Bernhard Truffer, EAWAG, Switzerland: “Configurational theorizing and the Sociotechnical Configurational Analysis (STCA)”

Novel qualitative methods and philosophical considerations (I)

- Johannes Glückler, University of Heidelberg, Germany: “Social network analysis and network thinking”
- Johan Miörner, Lund University, Sweden; EAWAG, Switzerland: “network methodologies in qualitative research projects”

Novel qualitative methods and philosophical considerations (II)

- Johanna Hautala & Roosa Wingström, University of Vaasa, Finland: “Co-creation in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”
- Markus Grillitsch, Lund University, Sweden: “Mixed methods”

Theorizing using conventional qualitative approaches

- Lea Fünfschilling: Lund University, Sweden: “a critical reflection on theorizing in case study”
- Joachim Blatter (to be confirmed): University of Lucerne, Switzerland: “doing rigorous qualitative research”

Using visuals for theorizing and civil society engagement

- Huiwen Gong, University of Bern, Switzerland: how to use visuals—tables and figures, to support theorizing process
- Gesa Pflitsch, University of Marburg, Germany: “analyzing by visualizing”
- Heike Mayer, University of Bern, Switzerland: “Visualization of research results for civil society engagement”

Tentative schedule:

Date	Morning session	Afternoon session	Instructors and coordinators	Topics
Monday	9.00-12.00	13.30-16.30	Roel Rutten; Bernhard Truffer; <i>(Heike Mayer; Johan Miörner; Huiwen Gong)</i>	Theories and theorizing in social sciences; Students' discussion and feedback on own work
Tuesday	09.00-12.00	13.30-16.30	Johannes Glückler; Johan Miörner <i>(Huiwen Gong)</i>	Novel qualitative methods; Students' discussion and feedback on own work
Wednesday	09.00-12.00	13.30-16.30	Markus Grillitsch; Johanna Hautala; <i>(Heike Mayer)</i>	Introduction to novel qualitative methods; Students' discussion and feedback on own work
Thursday	09.00-12.00	13.30-16.30	Lea Fünfschilling; Joachim Blatter (pending); <i>(Johan Miörner)</i>	Theorizing with conventional qualitative methods; Students' discussion and feedback on own work
Friday	09.00-12.00	13.30-15.30	Huiwen Gong Gesa Pflisch; Heike Mayer; <i>(Heike Mayer; Johan Miörner; Huiwen Gong)</i>	Using visuals for theorizing and civil society engagement; wrapup & reflections