Mixed Methods and Case Studies

Course description:
The course focuses on several different aspects of mixed methods research in the social sciences with particular reference to case studies. The term 'case study' has many meanings. Sometimes it refers to a specific research design with accompanying methods for data collection and analysis. In other instances it is used synonymously with ethnographic studies, fieldwork, or just qualitative methods. For this course we have chosen to explore a variety of ways of using case studies in studying micro or macro social phenomena. Topics that will be discussed include: considerations and rationales for making use of more than one data source or method of data collection; designing mixed methods case studies; and ways of integrating data at the analysis stage. Epistemological and methodological issues in combining methods are approached from different viewpoints with examples from lecturers’ research. In addition, new developments in mixed methods research and issues around quality criteria in assessing mixed methods and case studies are examined.

Participants are invited to present and discuss outline of papers about methodological issues related to their own studies. All the lecturers will take part during the whole course and will discuss candidates' papers in group sessions.

Candidates who submit a final version of their paper for approval by September 1st 2012 will get 10 credits for full course participation and an approved paper. The reading list is approximately 700 pages. A compendium will be available at the Department of Sociology in March 2012.

Lunch and one dinner included in the course.

The deadline for registration for the course is February 1st 2012. Candidates enrolled in a PhD-Programme are given priority. Deadline for submission of abstract is March 1st 2012.

Registration:
Candidates enrolled in a PhD programme at the University of Bergen can sign up for the course using Studentweb. External candidates can register by email to maria.lundhaug@isp.uib.no

Please include your full name, your institution affiliation and whether you are enrolled in a PhD-Programme. Please also indicate whether you will present a paper and if so, a preliminary title of your paper. We also need to know whether you will join us for dinner on Monday April 23rd. Academic contact person: Prof. Ann Nilsen (ann.nilsen@sos.uib.no)
Lecturers:

**Julia Brannen** is Professor of Sociology of the Family in the Institute of Education, University of London. She has written on methodological issues including: Mixing Methods: Qualitative and quantitative research (1992 Gower) and The Handbook of Social Research (Sage 2008). She is a contributor to the Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioural Research (Sage, 2010), Seale et al’s Qualitative Research in Practice (2004 Sage) Advances in Mixed Methods Research. Theories and Applications (2008 Sage) and Mixed methods research for nursing and the health sciences (2009 Blackwell). Her interests also extend to biographical research methods and comparative cross national methods. She is a cofounder and co-editor of the International Journal of Social Research Methodology(Website: www.tandf.co.uk). Her substantive research focuses on families, the relation between paid work and family life and intergenerational relations. Her most recent book is Lewis, S, Brannen, J and Nilsen, A (2009) Work, Families and Organisations in Transition: European Perspectives Bristol: Policy Press

**Alan Bryman** is Professor of Organisational and Social Research in the School of Management, University of Leicester, England. His main research interests lie in research methodology, leadership studies, organizational analysis, the process of Disneyization, and theme parks. He is author or coauthor of many books, including Quantity and Quality in Social Research (Routledge, 1988), Charisma and Leadership in Organizations (Sage, 1992), Disney and his Worlds (Routledge, 1995), Quantitative Data Analysis with IBM SPSS 17, 18 and 19: A Guide for Social Scientists (Routledge, 2011), Social Research Methods (Oxford University Press, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012), Business Research Methods (Oxford University Press, 2003, 2007, 2011), and The Disneyization of Society (Sage, 2004). He is a coeditor of The SAGE Encyclopedia of Social Science Research (Sage, 2003), the Handbook of Data Analysis (Sage, 2004), the SAGE Handbook of Organizational Research Methods (Sage, 2009), and the SAGE Handbook of Leadership (Sage, 2011).

**Lars Mjøset** is professor of sociology and director of The Oslo Summer School for Comparative Social Science Studies, both at the University of Oslo, Norway. His main fields of research have been political economy and macro-historical comparisons: of the Nordic countries, of small European countries and of international hegemonies and state systems. He has published articles and monographs on the Nordic countries, on Ireland compared with five other small European economies, and articles on the employment performance of Western European welfare states, on the history of environmental problems and on types of military conscription systems in Europe in a historical perspective. He has recently also engaged with philosophy of science questions centred on the role of theory in social science, with particular attention to how the notion of grounded theory can be of relevance to macro-oriented, comparative studies. For a full list of publications, see [http://www.sv.uio.no/iss/personer/vit/larsmj/index.html](http://www.sv.uio.no/iss/personer/vit/larsmj/index.html).

**Ann Nilsen** is Professor of sociology at the Department of Sociology, University of Bergen. Her fields of expertise are general sociological theory and methodology and life course and biographical research. She has carried out a number of empirical studies and participated in cross-national teams in studies of young people’s transition to adulthood and young Europeans’
transition to parenthood. Her publications include the co-edited books Futures in Transition: Young Europeans Work and Family (2002) and Work Families and Organisations in Transition: European Perspectives (2009) and Transitions to Parenthood in Europe: a comparative life course perspective (forthcoming). She has also contributed to methods texts including Handbook of Social Research (Sage, 2008) and Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioural Research (Sage, 2010), and published articles in scientific journals.
Course Programme

Monday April 23rd

09.30-10.15 Registration, coffee/tea
10.15-12.00 Developments in mixed methods research
  Prof. Alan Bryman
12.00-13.15 Lunch
13.15-15.00 Considerations in choice of methods and examples of combining methods
  Prof. Julia Brannen
15.00-15.15 Coffee/tea
15.15-17.00 Group seminars and paper presentations
19.30 Dinner

Tuesday April 24th

10.15-12.00 Contextualism, mixed methods and macro-sociology
  Prof. Lars Mjøset
12.00-13.15 Lunch
13.15-15.00 Mixing methods in life course and biographical research: an overview
  Prof. Ann Nilsen
15.00-15.15 Coffee/tea
15.15-17.00 Group seminars and paper presentations

Wednesday April 25th

10.15-12.00 The methodology of macro-comparative modelling
  Prof. Lars Mjøset
12.00-13.15 Lunch
13.15-15.00 Linking a qualitative study to a national survey
  Prof. Julia Brannen
15.00-15.15 Coffee/tea
15.15-17.00 Group seminars and paper presentations

Thursday April 26th

10.15-12.00 Quality Criteria and Mixed Methods Research.
  Prof. Alan Bryman
12.00-13.00 Lunch
13.00-15.00 Plenary discussion
Readings:


Bergman, Manfred Max (ed). 2008 Advances in mixed methods research : theories and applications. London Sage 192 pp


Bryman, Alan (2012) Social Research Methods 4th edition, Oxford University Press; chapter 3 on research designs (including case study), chapter 27 on mixed methods research, and chapter 29 on writing up research (section on writing up mixed methods research)


Dicks, B., Soyinka, B., and Coffey, A. ‘Multimodal ethnography’ Qualitative Research 6(1): 77-96 19 pp


O’Cathain, Alicia, Elizabeth Murphy1, Jon Nicholl The quality of mixed methods studies in health services research 7 pp


