Qualitative Methods and Techniques in Social Sciences
Amrita School of Business
Summer Term 2015-16, PhD Program

Objective:

The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the essential nature and common concerns of qualitative research methodologies. It will introduce the specificities of various qualitative methods and discuss appropriate qualitative methods for diverse social science disciplines and interdisciplinary areas.

Course Content

The idea of ‘social science’: Interrogation and introspection

- Epistemological Issues: issue of causation, determination, explanation and validation, Nature of concepts, theories and models.
- Positivist perspectives: Behaviouralism, Systems Theories, Quantitative Methods
- Post positivist epistemologies: Multiple realities?
- Paradigm and paradigm shifts.
- Emergence, evolution and current status of qualitative social science research: global scenario and Indian context.

Forms of Qualitative Research

- Ethnography- multi-cited ethnography
- Focus Group Research
- Action Research and Applied Research
- Mixing Methods

Methods Of Qualitative Research

- Collection and Transcription of qualitative data- Observer impression, Key informant interviews, Oral narratives, Grounded Theory, Story telling.
- Content Analysis, Conversation analysis
- Archival Research

Analysing Qualitative Data

Course Instructor: Dr. Pampa Mukherjee

Pampa Mukherjee is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh. She took her M.A. M.Phil and Ph.D. from Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She specializes in developmental and environmental politics, common property resources, public policy,
and local level institutions. She has published extensively both in journals and in edited volumes. Her recent coedited a volume titled 'Facing Globality, Politics of Relocation, Reinvention and Rediscovery has been published from Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Dr. Mukherjee has also undertaken several independent national and international research projects, supported by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), McCarthur Foundation, She has conducted several UGC and ICSSR funded seminars and workshops on quantitative and qualitative methods in social science research. She is one of the core member of Asian Initiative on Legal Pluralism and is currently its co-coordinator. She has presented papers at several international conferences including Canada, South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. She is currently working on the book 'Uttarakhand: Politics of Identity and Development'.

Readings*


*This is only an indicative list. An exhaustive compilation of literature on each topic will be provided by the course instructor.