

EG13: Mixing online qualitative and quantitative methods

Subject Information:

Code	EG13	Plan	2014	ECTS	5
Type of Subject	Elective	Year	2	Semester	3
Knowledge area:					
Department:					
Virtual Platform	Platform:	Studium.usal.es			
	Access URL:	Studium.usal.es			

Data about the instructor-teacher

Teacher	Bojana Lobe	Group /s	
Department			
Knowledge area			
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Remarks (previous requirements, coordination, other, if any)

The basic knowledge about quantitative and qualitative methods is welcome but not a must. The course is designed as a basic introductory course to mixed methods research.

Objectives and competencies of the subject (basics, general, transversal, specifics)

To acquaint students with the basics of mixed methods research, to introduce the basic paradigm discussion, to discuss strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative methods in general and in online mixed methods research projects, to acquaint students with basic mixed methods designs, sampling and generalization issues, data collection sequence, analysis and interpretation of mixed methods data. To present flexible online mixed methods design and how to design MMR project online. Students will be able to conduct a mixed methods study online.

Programme (Brief Description of modules) and expected learning outcomes

In the first part of the course a short overview about current discussions in the field will be given. Thereafter the course will focus on the specific strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research in general and online. By drawing on examples from Mixed Methods research projects we will show how typical methodological problems of qualitative or quantitative research can be treated and solved by using methods from the other tradition. Functions of different kinds of Mixed Methods Designs will be treated and the relation between research questions and qualitative and quantitative parts of a Mixed Method Design will be discussed. The second part of the course will be focused on specific methods and how to go about to integrate them in MMR online.

Topics covered:

Overview and Introduction

- the qualitative and quantitative research tradition in a nutshell
- Issues of research quality and „paradigm wars“
- The idea of non-overlapping strengths and weaknesses

Mixed Methods Designs I

- The concept of triangulation and complementarity
- Convergent, complementary and divergent findings in Mixed Methods Research

Mixed Methods designs II

- Qualitative sampling issues and MMD
- Generalisation of qualitative findings
- Sequential and parallel designs
- The role of theory in Mixed Methods Designs: macro vs. microperspective

Designing Mixed Methods Research Project

- Writing up MMR proposal
- Defining the problem for MMR
- Formulating MMR research question
- Choosing the right MMR design and methods within
- Analysing and reporting MMR

Online MMR

- Introduction to flexible online mixed methods design
- Online Fieldwork (participant observation) in Mixed Methods Research
- Online focus groups in MMR
- Online In-depth Interviews in MMR

- Practical and epistemological considerations of FOMM
- Designing a MMR project online
- Combination of online and offline methods in MMR

Methodology

Lectures, tutorial seminar and project work

- Resources:

Bibliography:

Online resources:

Evaluation System:

Research project

Expected learning outcomes

Students learn the basic concept of qualitative and quantitative methods and how to combine both effectively in order to be able to design and conduct a mixed methods study online.