

Doing Research

ARTS-L0102

Oral Exam and Reading Circle

Luis Vega, co-teacher
luis.vega@aalto.fi



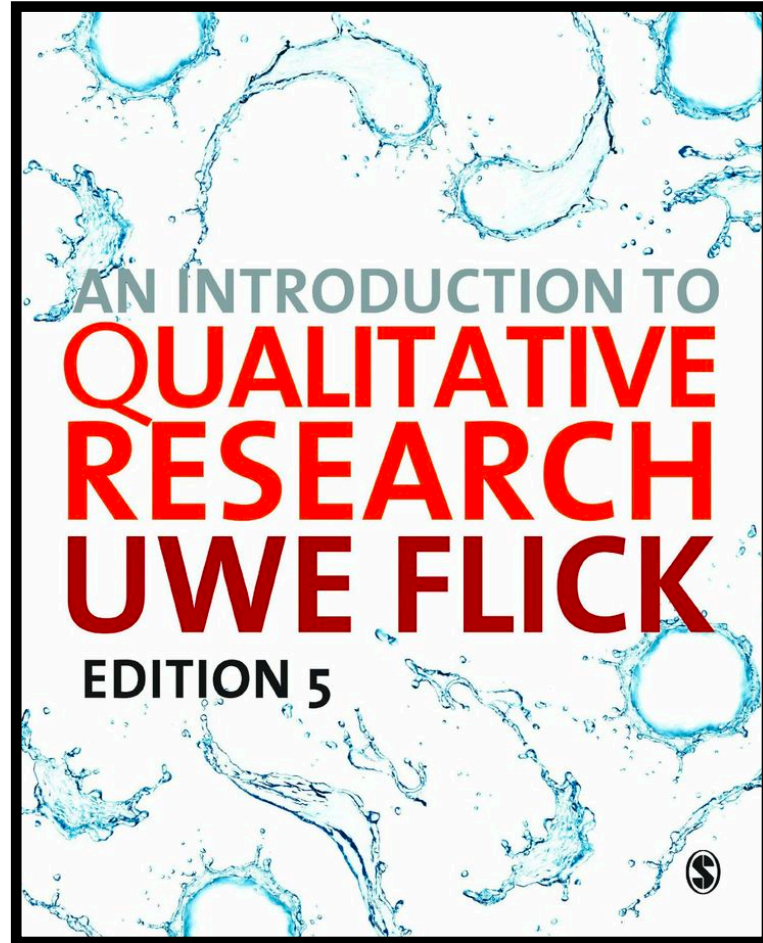
Aalto University
School of Arts, Design
and Architecture

Course structure

- **One-week intensive course, 17–21.10**
- **Book and oral exam: presentation (30% of the overall grade)**
 - Read Uwe Flick's book *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*
 - Present a topic from the book (in pairs)
 - Evaluate the presentation of three additional topics (individually)
- **Reading circle (participation is optional)**
- **Revised research plan, deadline TBA (70% of the overall grade)**

Book

- Find the book in **MyCourses** → **Materials**



Instructions for the exam

- **4 sessions:**
 - 13:30–16:30, Mon 26.9, **Otakaari 1, U401**
 - 13:30–16:30, Fri 30.9, **Väre, M202**
 - 13:30–16:30, Mon 3.10, **Otakaari 1, U401**
 - 13:30–16:30, Fri 7.10, **Väre, M202**

Participation is mandatory in at least 3 sessions

Instructions for the exam

- **To pass the exam:**
 - Present 1 topic from the book (30 minutes, in pairs)
 - Evaluate 3 presentations (oral feedback + written statement, individually)

You can evaluate only 1 presentation per session

How to choose a topic to present

- Familiarize yourself with Flick's book and its contents
- Go to **MyCourses** → **Book and Oral Exam**
- Scroll down to the **Exam** section of the page and open the google document with the instructions:

<https://bit.ly/3KDjTJc>



Doing Research Oral Exam 2021

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Doing Research Oral Exam 2021

General guidelines

The oral exam is organized into four sessions: Monday 4.10, Friday 8.10, Tuesday 12.10, and Friday 15.10. Each session will consist of four presentations based on a selection of topics from Flick's book. All presentations must be prepared and delivered in pairs, with each pair having a total of 30 minutes to present + 15 minutes to receive feedback. Since we have 31 students enrolled in the course, one presentation will have to be prepared and delivered individually. This presentation can be, of course, shorter.

To pass the exam, you must present one topic and evaluate the presentation of three additional topics. You can only choose to evaluate one presentation per session, meaning that you will have to participate in at least three sessions (including the session of your own presentation).

Remember that the course is graded as follows:

- 70% Research plan (grading 1–5)
- 30% Oral exam (grading pass/fail)

Note

The format for the presentations is free as long as it can be shown on screen. In any case, I encourage you to prepare PDF slides or something that can be easily uploadable to MyCourses. The idea is to have a rich repository of presentations by the end of the oral examination.

Exam Structure

Session, date	Time	List of topics	Presenters: Name, email Max. 8 per session, 2 per topic	Evaluators: Name, email Max. 6 per topic, 24 per session
Session 1, Monday, October 4	13:30–14:00, Presentation 14:00–14:15, Discussion	1. Epistemology and research paradigms: Positivism, constructivism, pragmatism	1. Name, email	(1) Name, (2) Name, (3) Name, (4) Name, (5) Name, (6) Name.
			2. Name, email	

Instructions for the oral exam

1. Familiarize yourself with the list of topics included in the table below.
2. Choose a topic to present by writing your name and email address in the corresponding slot of the **Presenters** column of the table. Please do not erase the numbers.
3. Choose three topics to evaluate by writing your name in the corresponding slot of the **Evaluators** column. Please do not erase the numbers.
4. Contact the person who chose the same topic as you to discuss how you want to organize your work.
5. Together, prepare your pair presentation (30 minutes in total). The presentations should be primarily based on Flick's book but can include additional material from other reliable, academic sources. It is expected that you not only present the topic but also reflect on how that topic is limiting or useful in your research. Please note that Flick's book does not discuss **artistic and/or practice-led research methods** at all. If you choose to present or evaluate this topic, you will have to refer to the additional readings listed in the **Materials for the exam** section at the end of this document. Remember to be on time for your presentation.
6. Once the topics are presented and discussed, write a two-paragraph evaluation statement for each of the presentations you chose to evaluate. Send your written statements to each of the presenters and make sure to send a copy of them all to luis.vega@aalto.fi.

Fill in the table

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Session 1, Monday, October 4	13:30–14:00, Presentation 14:00–14:15, Discussion	1. Epistemology and research paradigms: Positivism, constructivism, pragmatism	1. Name, email	(1) Name, (2) Name, (3) Name, (4) Name, (5) Name, (6) Name.
			2. Name, email	



Presentation topics

- **Session 1:** Epistemology and research paradigms, main research programs, research design, research ethics
- **Session 2:** Use of the literature in qualitative research, research questions, samples and sampling, strategies for conducting research
- **Session 3:** Verbal data collection, visual data collection, ethnographic methods, artistic and practice-led research methods
- **Session 4:** Data handling, verbal data analysis, visual data analysis, grounded theory analysis

Reading circle (optional)

- **There are two meeting opportunities to discuss the book:**
 - Reading circle 1 - 13.30-15.30, Mon 19.9 @ **Väre, O112**
 - Reading circle 2 - 13.30-15.30, Fri 23.9 @ **Väre, O112**
- **To sign up for a meeting:**
 - Send an email to **luis.vega@aalto.fi**
 - Write **Reading Circle** in the subject line of your email and indicate which session you would like to attend.
 - Come to the reading circle with specific questions in mind!

29.8 — 2.9				1.9 Otakaari 1, U356 Introduction day 13.15 — 17.00	
5 — 9.9	5 — 23.9 Independent reading				
12 — 16.9					
19 — 23.9	19.9 Väre, O112 Reading Circle 1 13.30 — 15.30				23.9 Väre, O112 Reading Circle 2 13.30 — 15.30
26 — 30.9	26.9 Otakaari 1, U401 First oral exam 13.30 — 16.30				30.9 Väre, M202 Second oral exam 13.30 — 16.30
3 — 7.10	3.10 Otakaari 1, U401 Third oral exam 13.30 — 16.30				7.10 Väre, M202 Fourth oral exam 13.30 — 16.30
10 — 15.10					
17 — 21.10	Intensive week				

Questions?

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