



ARTS-L0108: Methods of gathering qualitative data, 4 cr

Teacher in charge, Eeva Berglund, eeva.berglund@aalto.fi

Note, Prof Berglund will try to answer emails as best she can, but the best way to catch her will be before and after teaching sessions.

7.1. - 23.1. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, (except week 1, see below) 9:15 - 12. Otakaari 1 (note room locations).

Course Content

This intensive doctoral level course gives students in the School of Arts, Design and Architecture an understanding of the main methods of gathering or generating qualitative data and managing it. It will help them think critically but constructively about what 'data' is and how it can be used, and about its relationship to analysis and other intellectual work.

It gives practical experience in preparing for and carrying out field research related to human behaviour and institutions. The course is designed so that students have the shared grounding for taking the Methods of Analysing Qualitative Data course, ARTS-L0104, taught by Annamari Vänskä.

Work load

Study time appr. 108 h

-lectures and seminars: 24 h; reading 24 h; independent and group work: 60 h

Teaching will consist of lectures and practical activities. Students must attend 80% of classes unless agreed in advance with the teacher. Provide advance notification of absence, and if you miss more than one session, expect to be asked for documentation of legitimate reasons.

Readings are divided into compulsory and additional texts. You should read them **before** class. Readings will be provided on MyCourses unless they are available online and/or in the library.

Deliverables and requirements

All students are expected to carry out the independent and group exercises, both in and beyond the classroom. You can choose whether to use them to progress your own ongoing research or to treat them as stand-alone opportunities for exploration.

In addition to doing the exercises independently and filing them in your own way for future use, you will submit assignments as follows:

- Pre-course assignment, hand in on paper at first meeting.
- Report on an interview. Due 20.1. on MyCourses.
- Small group assignment (joint work, pass/fail). Due 23.1.
- Essay. Max. 1600 words + references, due midnight 25.1.2019. 50% of grade. Further details will be provided.

Make sure to include your name and other details on all submitted work, and please put your **surname in the file title.**

Assessment criteria for individual work: 1) evidence of thoughtful and creative use of appropriate methods in practice; 2) evidence of intellectual and creative engagement with, as well as critical reflection on, the relevant method (also, where appropriate, on the literature about it); 3) quality and clarity in the articulation and communication of what has been learned; 4) systematic and clear presentation, both textual and visual.

Pre-course exercise: "Life at Home". 45 – 60 minutes, see MyCourses under Assignments for detail.

WEEK 1

Tuesday 7.1. 1) Observing, documenting, analysing human life – with Annamari Vänskä, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

Thurs 9.1. 2) Interviewing basics, including access and ethics, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

Friday 10.1. 3) Interviewing 2, including note-taking and organising notes, U115a, Otakaari 1

WEEK 2

Mon 13.1. 4) Cultural probes and speculative objects, with Guy Julier, U115a, Otakaari 1

Tue 14.1. 5) People and records, digital and analogue, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

Thur 16.1. 6) Ethnographies and being ethnographic, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

WEEK 3

Mon 20.1. 7) Visual methods, with Anna Kholina, PhD candidate, DoD, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

Tue 21.1 8) Research, politics and people, FINAVIA Otakaari 1 (Presentations of group exercise in class)

Thur 23.1 9) Focus groups, FINAVIA Otakaari 1

Make sure you store the material you generate in a form that you can retrieve and make sense of later!!

