Amsterdam Business Research Institute

Process Research Methods

Course Manual
Academic Year 2019 - 2020
Faculty
Prof.dr.ir. Hans Berends  j.j.berends@vu.nl  Course coordinator & lecturer
Prof.dr. Brian Pentland  pentland@broad.msu.edu  Lecturer

Target groups
The course Process Research Methods 2019-2020 is open to PhD candidates, research master students, honours master students, postdocs, and junior faculty. This is an advanced course that assumes prior knowledge on qualitative research methods (e.g. the ABRI course Qualitative Research Methods). The course workload represents 6 ECTS.

Course Content
Most of the phenomena investigated by management and organization scholars evolve over time. This includes processes at various levels, such as team development, innovation, organizational change, interorganizational collaboration, and institutionalization. Process research methods have been developed to capture the dynamics of how such phenomena unfold over time, without reducing them to dependent or independent variables. This course provides an introduction to these process research methods. It provides the philosophical and theoretical background to process thinking, methods for collecting process data, and qualitative and quantitative methods for analyzing process data.

Learning Objectives
After finishing this course, participants have developed their:
- Understanding of process theorizing and different approaches to process research in management and organization studies
- Ability to make and justify choices in the design of process research
- Ability to apply qualitative and quantitative methods of process analysis
- Insight in reporting and publishing process studies.

Course Design
The course is organized around five full day sessions in February / March 2020 and individual assignments. Each session is dedicated to one aspect of process research methods, and will consist roughly of two parts: an interactive morning part in which a topic is introduced and an afternoon part in which participants engage in exercises and present and discuss process research methods in relation to their own work. Participants are expected to come well prepared to these sessions. Assignments and evaluation criteria for grading will be explained separately.
Workload and credits
The estimated time participants spend on study activities is:

Attending Lectures and Interactive Assignment Sessions 36 hours
Studying Literature 70 hours
Completing the Individual Assignments 60 hours

Total 168 hours (6 ECTS)

Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Morning session</th>
<th>Afternoon session</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 5</td>
<td>1B04</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Process theorizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 12</td>
<td>1B04</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Designing process research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 26</td>
<td>1B04</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Qualitative analysis of process data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 4</td>
<td>1B04</td>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>Brian Pentland</td>
<td>Quantitative analysis of event sequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 10</td>
<td>1B04</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Reporting of process research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Session overview

Session 1: Process theorizing

Content
• process philosophy
• process theorizing in organization and management research
• introduction to process research methods
• process oriented research questions

Requested readings

Optional readings
Session 2: Designing process research

Content

- issues in the design of process research
- alternative strategies for doing process research

Requested readings


Optional readings


Session 3: Qualitative analysis of process data

Content
- different strategies for process analysis
- identifying events and creating event sequences
- coding events
- developing process theory

Requested Readings


Optional Readings
Session 4: Quantitative methods for analyzing event sequences

Content
- conceptualising occurrences, events and states (review)
- n-grams & pattern recognition
- narrative networks
- synchronic and diachronic comparison

Requested Readings

Optional Readings
Session 5: Writing up process research studies

Content
- reporting qualitative process studies
- publishing process research
- presentation of examples of process studies

Requested Readings


Optional Readings


Grading
Attendance and active participation in the sessions is mandatory to pass this course. The requested readings mentioned above are assumed to have been read prior to class.

Participants receive two grades: one grade for class participation (including a presentation) (50%) and one grade for the final individual assignment (50%). The final score is the weighted average of these two grades.