Course title: Qualitative Research Methods in Business Administration

Coordinator(s): Prof. dr. M. Soekijad

Lecturer(s): Prof. dr. M. Soekijad, Prof. dr. A.J. Porter, Prof. dr. P.R. Tuertscher, Prof. dr. M.H. Rezazade Mehrizi

Study period: April 2019 - May 2019

ECTS: 6 ECTS

Tuition: € 600

Course goals:

Participants learn to conduct various elements of qualitative research that eventually aims at publishing qualitative research. Each session has its own detailed learning outcomes, as explained in the course manual. Overall, after successful completion of the course, students will:

• Know what characterizes high-quality qualitative research
• Be able to iteratively (re)design and plan a qualitative research study and formulate judgements about designs in writing and verbally
• Have practiced with a variety of qualitative methods and techniques (related to data collection and analysis)
• Be able to write up a qualitative study and provide good arguments for certain method related choices (including memos)
• Be able to discuss qualitative research methods with peers.

Content:

The course enables students to conduct in-depth, analytical, complexity-structuring qualitative empirical research, with a strong focus on the iterative process of data analysis. By going through several 'iterative cycles' during the course, students will learn to conduct the various parts of qualitative research that fit with the elements of a qualitative research publication (design, methods, literature, empirical findings, discussion/analysis, conclusion). Students will do a research project during the course.

They will develop and use the technique of 'memo writing' in order to fine-tune and further develop their project. They will also get acquainted with aspects of qualitative methods and techniques to do research in business administration, such as case studies, ethnography, grounded theory, interviews, observations, online data, and learn how to use computer assisted tools, process methods, and/or QCA.

This advanced course is based on seminal work in journals such as AMR, AMJ, OSci, JMS, SMJ, ASQ, MISQ and taught by faculty who will use their own practical experience with publishing qualitative research.
The course consists of 2 sessions per week, for 6 weeks, in the form of interactive tutorials (including a computer lab) and feedback sessions. There are many in-class exercises that students need to participate in, while in parallel, they work on their graded assignments. The main aim is to develop the students' hands-on experience with doing qualitative research.

Students have to hand in 4 (individual) assignments for grades; the final grade is the weighted average of all partial grades, and must be a 5.5 or higher to successfully pass the course.

The assignments and exact evaluation criteria for grading will be explained in the course manual and are discussed during the sessions.

**Additional conditions to pass the course:**
Part of passing the requirements of this course is that attendance is mandatory; being absent for more than two sessions leads to not passing the course. Besides attendance, a number of mandatory in-class assignments need to be handed in (not for grades). Active participation in discussions in class is expected as research is engaging in a debate and a willingness to do so should also be shown in class.

**Resit:** it is possible to resit assignments.

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A set of academic articles will be made available via Canvas. The literature is assumed to have been read prior to each session.