

Ljubljana Doctoral Summer School

16 – 20 July 2018



COURSE TITLE: Mixed Methods Research Design and Analysis

ECTS credits: 4

Course schedule: from 9:00 to 13:00

Lecturer:

Pavasović Trošt Tamara, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, Slovenia

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Aims of the course:

This course introduces students to mixed methods research and prepares them for choosing and implementing the appropriate research design for their doctoral dissertations. It is aimed to build on existing knowledge of qualitative and quantitative methods by exploring the possibilities of integrating qualitative and quantitative data analysis into a mixed method research design. While mixed methods research seems daunting to many students, it can increase the validity of findings and improve the quality of knowledge gained through qualitative or quantitative methods alone. In addition to introducing the main types of MMR design and distinguishing when they might be most suitable, and providing “how to” practical training on collecting and analysing data, topics covered will help students confront the main challenges and obstacles of mixed methods research: how to determine the optimal research design given the research question; how to combine and integrate different kinds of data; the practical tools useful for undergoing data collection analysis in MMR designs; and how to most effectively analyse, evaluate, and interpret data in mixed methods research studies.

1. Provide students with knowledge of mixed methods research designs and ability to recognize the types of research questions best suited for integrating qualitative and quantitative methods;
2. Familiarize students with the basic types of MMR designs, data collection, and data analysis strategies;
3. Equip students with skills needed to develop a MMR dissertation proposal and/or produce a publishable mixed method study.





Course syllabus / Tentative schedule:

Session 1. Introduction and Overview

- Introduction
- Methodology: What it means and why it matters
- Overview: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches
- Data collection and data analysis
- Why choose mixed methods and when are they appropriate
- Paradigm issues in mixed methods research
- Examples of good mixed methods work
- Challenges and possibilities of mixed methods research

Session 2. Research Design

- Overview of research designs
- Basic mixed method research designs
- Advanced mixed method designs
- Equal vs. unequal priority MM designs
- How to choose a design
- Methodological transparency
- Drawing diagrams
- Mixing prior to analysis
- Mixing during analysis (covered in depth in Day 4)
- Hybrid approaches to MM research designs: MM experiment, MM case study, MM evaluation, MM action research
- Sampling

Session 3. Data collection

- Gaining access to the field
- Qualitative data collection: Interviews, Focus Groups, Observation/Ethnography
- Quantitative data collection: Experiments, Survey Questionnaires
- Merging data in mixed methods
- Ethical Issues

Session 4. Data analysis

- Types of qualitative data analysis: content analysis, discourse analysis, coding
- Steps in qualitative data analysis
- Approaches to causality in qualitative analysis
- Within-case displays, cross-case displays, matrix displays
- Qualitative data analysis software
- Induction, abduction and deduction
- Validity and reliability
- Mixed methods analytical procedures, mixing at analysis
- Qualitizing quantitative data, quantifying qualitative data

Session 5. Evaluating, writing, and presenting MM research

- Writing, reporting, and presenting mixed methods research
- Where to publish MM research, types of MM publications
- Evaluating quality of mixed methods research
- Best practices
- Brief student presentations





List of readings:

- Hesse-Biber, S. N. and R. B. Johnson. 2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research Inquiry*. Oxford University Press.
- Tashakkori, A. and C. Teddlie. 2003. *Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social & Behavioral Research*. Sage.
- Creswell, John. 2015. *A Concise Introduction to Mixed Methods Research*. Sage.
- Creamer, E. 2018. *An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research*. Sage.
- Creswell, J. and V. Plano-Clark. 2011. *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research*. Sage.

Teaching and examination methods:

The course grade will be based on

- (1) a brief quiz at the end of the course (30%)
- (2) the quality of the student's final research proposal or project, 7-10 pages, which will outline the methods for data collection and analysis to be used in the student's doctoral dissertation or project (70%).

Prerequisites:

Familiarity with basics of qualitative and quantitative research is recommended.

Lecturer's Biographical Note:



Tamara Pavasović Trošt is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University in 2012, with a mixed-methods dissertation examining ethnic identity among Croatian and Serbian youth. She spent the 2015-16 academic year as a research fellow at Princeton University, working on the relationship between class and ethnic attitudes. In addition to her research focus on qualitative methods, she has published about issues of identity, youth values, populism, nationalism, history education, and collective memory.