

Course description Workshop

Qualitative research methods on Social Determinants of Health

Aims of the workshop

This workshop aims at offering an introduction to qualitative research methods for research on social determinants of health (SDH) for INDEPTH scholars from different disciplines. The workshop will equip the participants with an understanding of how qualitative research approaches may be useful in projects that focus SDH and with basic skills that are needed to critically design and carry out their own qualitative research projects in the field of SDH.

Topics

During this workshop participants may expect to gain a greater understanding about the following topics:

- What is the role of qualitative research in generating evidence on SDH?
 - Designing a qualitative study
 - Formulating qualitative research questions
 - Sampling and recruitment for qualitative studies
 - Planning and conducting indepth interviews
 - Planning and conducting focus groups
 - Planning and conducting participant observation
 - Ethical issues in qualitative research
 - Basics of qualitative data analysis
 - Basics of the reporting of qualitative studies
 - Developing the design and methodology for your own qualitative study

Teaching approach

The workshop is structured in sessions that are designed to guide participants step-by-step in planning their own qualitative research project on SDH. The sessions will consist of a mixture of plenary lectures, presentations by participants, hands on training and group discussions. During the plenary lectures the teachers will present an overview of the central concepts and basic assumptions in qualitative research. Much of the learning processes will take place through hands-on training, presentations and discussions. These sessions are an essential part of the workshop. In our teaching approach there will be a strong focus on illustrating the various topics with cases or examples from ongoing SDH work. The teachers will bring examples that are based on country reports on SDH issues in seven countries that have been published within the INTREC project. The participants are also expected to come to the workshop with a description of SDH problems they may want to study regardless of stage of their research. We will identify the various contributions of the

participants on the first day and inbuild them within the workshop so as to make best use for all the participants.

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Assignments

1. *Workshop preparation*: participants are expected to come to the workshop with the following preparatory work:

A one page description of:

- One (or more) SDH problems they want to study
- The provisional qualitative research questions with which they want to study the problem(s)
- A short description of the type of qualitative data they expect to collect to answer those questions.

2. *During the work shop* participants are expected to develop a plan for their own (potential) qualitative study on SDH. The plan should include;

- Specific qualitative research question(s) in relation to existing ongoing work on SDH
- A justification of why qualitative methods are needed
- A description of the overall research design
- Choice of data collection method(s)
- Sampling procedures
- A developed interview/thematic/observation guide

Requirements and Evaluation

Participants will be assessed according to their active participation in the workshop as well as on the basis of the research plan they develop during the workshop and will hand in after the end of the workshop. The evaluation consists of an advice from the teachers.

Teachers

The workshop will be taught by Dr J.A. Haafkens (j.a.haafkens@uva.nl), who is a senior research coordinator at the University of Amsterdam (Centre of Social Science and Global Health) and Dr Klas Goran Sahlen (klasse.sahlen@umu.se), who is a lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health of Umea University in Sweden. Both teachers have ample experience in conduction and publishing and teaching about qualitative health research.

Literature for workshop

Mack N, Woodsong C, MacQueen KM, Guest G, Namey E. *Qualitative Research Methods: A data collector's field guide*. Research Triangle Park, North Carolina: Family Health International, 2005. (available at; <http://www.fhi360.org/resource/qualitative-research-methods-data-collectors-field-guide>)

Tong A, Sainsbury P, Craig J. Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. *Int J Qual Health Care*. 2007 Dec;19(6):349-57.

Malterud K. Qualitative research: standards, challenges, and guidelines. *Lancet*. 2001 Aug 11;358(9280):483-8.

More to be announced

Optional literature on SDH

World Health Organization. *Handbook on health inequality monitoring: with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries*. Geneva, Switzerland; WHO Press: 2013

Blas E. Kurup AS. (Ed) *Equity, social determinants and public health programmes*. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO Press; 2010