

# PLU8022 Qualitative Methods of Analysis II

PhD Course

Spring 2021

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Rose Martin

Subject teachers: Associate Professor Rose Martin, Professor May Britt Postholm, Associate Professor Anita Normann, PhD Candidate Gry Olsen Ulrichsen and Professor Tone Pernille Østern.

## PLU8022 course programme – Spring 2021

Gathering day 1: Thursday 4 February

10:15-11:00: **Welcome**

Introduction, information about subject, work requirements, exam and peer review / presentation (template for student responses).

Subject teacher: Rose Martin

11:15-12:00: **Lunch**

12:00-13:30: **Creativity in research**

In this session we will explore / create the methodology and analysis that suits the problem and purpose of the research you seek to investigate.

Considerations of ethics and creativity within the research process is unpacked.

This lecture is linked to the book:

Kara, H. (2015). *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical guide*. Policy Press.

Subject teacher: Tone Pernille Østern

13:30-14:00: **Coffee / tea break**

14:00-16:00: **Shifts, views, and turns in analysis: Investigating possibilities within your own research**

We base this session on the article delivered for PLU8021 and your empirical data material you are using for PLU8022. In this session we will explore reflections on your analysis thus far, how different approaches to analysis might lead to different offerings, concerns, ethical considerations, and dialogue. The session will involve working in small groups. This lecture does not have a compulsory text. However, you will need to bring your article delivered for PLU8021 and your empirical data material you are using for PLU8022.

Subject teacher: Rose Martin

## Gathering day 2: Friday 5 February

9:00-13:45: **Workshops** (choose one workshop to attend) (Lunch 11:00-11:45)

Workshop-specific lectures on various qualitative methods of analysis.

Please choose one workshop to attend from the following:

- Narrative analysis, discourse analysis and ethnographic approaches (Rose Martin)
- Interpretative phenomenological analysis (Anita Normann)
- Constant comparative (May Britt Postholm)
- Diffractive analysis (Gry Olsen Ulrichsen)

These lectures are in workshop form, please bring your own empirical material to work with.

During the workshops, the subject teacher will provide individual guidance on ideas for the examination article, based on the candidate's own empirical material. The guidance is given within the workshops, and nothing should be submitted in advance.

13:45-14:00: Break

14:00-14:30: **Plenary session**

This session offers a summary, evaluation, information and questions about further work / work requirements in advance of the next on campus seminar.

### Work requirements

- Work requirement 1 due: Friday 5 March
- Work requirement 2 due: Friday 26 March
- Send draft article to fellow student who will give your response and to your academic supervisor: 26 April

## Gathering day 3: Tuesday 4 May

9:00-9:30: **Welcome**

This session offers an overview of the day and answers any questions from the cohort.

Subject teacher: Rose Martin

9:30-15:00: **Presentation of article (75% complete) in groups with critical questions of fellow student and teacher**

Gry's group: Location TBC

May Britt's group: Location TBC  
Rose's group: Location TBC  
Anita's group: Location TBC

15:00-15:30: **Conclusion**

A session to provide a summary of the course, evaluation, and additional information and to answer any questions about further work in preparation for the examination.

Subject teacher: Rose Martin

## Work requirements

PLU8022 (course 2) is a continuation of PLU8021 (course 1). Course 1 gave an overview of a set of qualitative methods of analysis. The focus in course 2 includes a more in-depth understanding of what qualitative oriented research is in a contemporary era of complex problems. Particular focus is given to creativity and ethics as intertwined aspects of qualitative analysis, a critical attitude towards analytical methods, and an in-depth study of a chosen method of analysis.

### Task 1: Reflective essay written in small groups (4 pages, including reference list)

This essay is to be an extension of the work in the session 'Shifts, views, and turns in analysis: Investigating possibilities within your own research' during gathering day 1. In small groups please prepare a four-page text that offers critical reflection, comparison and discussion of the qualitative methods of analysis you collectively explored.

The following points are to be explored in your text:

- What reflections have you made about the different methods of analysis your small group explored, and what materials / problems do they suit or do not suit in your view and why?
- What do you perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of the different methods, how do you see that they differ?
- What are the ethical concerns when engaging with the different methods of analysis that your small group explored?
- What opportunities and challenges do you see in the different methods of analysis that your small group explored?
- What questions have emerged from your discussions?

The essay should be 4 pages long (reference list included) and presented as an academic piece of writing with clear reflections of all group members thoughts, positions, and research. Scholarly references should be used throughout as needed to engage in academic discourse. Please follow the APA 7 guidelines for referencing and formatting.

Language for this essay: English

Send the essay to [rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no](mailto:rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no) by **Friday 5 March 2021**.

Task 2: Individual essay exploring creativity in qualitative research (4 pages, including reference list)

In this essay provide an academic discussion of creativity in qualitative research related to your own research project. This text is to be prepared individually.

For this academic discussion, the text 'Kara, H. (2015). *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical guide*. Policy Press' is used. The following points are indicative of what is to be explored within the text, and should be linked to both your project and the book:

- Provide a brief description and rationale for creativity in social science research.
- Why and how is creative thinking central to analysis work in research, and to your project?
- An argument in "Creative research methods in the social sciences" is that there is a close connection between working ethically with research and thinking creatively. How might we do this in our research? Do you agree / disagree, and why? What does this mean in relation to your own project?
- How might theory be used creatively and what is the significance of it for analysis work, including your own analysis in your project?

The essay should be 4 pages long (reference list included) and presented as an academic piece of writing. While the text 'Kara, H. (2015). *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical guide*. Policy Press' is the primary source for this piece of writing, other academic references can be included where needed. Please follow the APA 7 guidelines for referencing and formatting.

Language for this essay: English

Send the essay to [rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no](mailto:rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no) by **Friday 26 March 2021**.

Task 3: Delivery of 75% complete article, oral presentation of the article, and engagement in peer review

This task is to deliver a written draft of your own academic article (75% complete), the oral presentation of this article, and peer review on fellow student's article

On **26 April 2021** please send your written draft of your article (75% complete) to your fellow student (who Rose will pair you with in advance) who will give peer review and to your academic supervisor. You will also receive an article to review from a peer, and a peer review form will be used for this task. This form will be delivered during gathering day 1.

On **4 May 2021**, during gathering day 3, each participant will orally present their article to their group and academic supervisor. Each participant will have 30 minutes each, for the oral presentation (allow 10 minutes), response from peer reviewer (allow 10 minutes), and also for questions and discussion from academic supervisor and other peers (allow 10 minutes).

Remember the emphasis of this article is on the analysis you have engaged with. Please read the exam task to gain further insight.

As a peer reviewer you must complete a peer review form in advance. The form should be delivered to the fellow student afterwards. The subject teacher will give a response also through the completed peer review form.

Languages for the 75% draft article: Norwegian, Danish, Swedish or English.

Languages for the oral presentation and feedback: Norwegian or English (to be confirmed with Rose in advance of the presentation)

**Note:** All work requirements for this course must be completed and approved in order to submit the exam.

## Exam task

### Task description:

This exam task takes the form of an academic journal article suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. It should therefore be prepared to publishable standards and expectations (but in this context it is not followed up whether the student actually makes attempts at publishing).

The aim of the examination task is to show proficiency in using a specific method of analysis, and for this analysis to be connected to a critical, rigorous, and meaningful discussion in the academic article. The article can serve as part of a PhD work or first-lecturer qualification.

The article must have a problem statement/research question and a clear focus. It can be a continuation of the article draft provided in PLU8021, or it may be a new analytical approach.

There is an emphasis in the article on analysis, however it is also expected that there is a presentation of some results and discussion on the basis of the analysis.

Articulation of the critical methodology of the analysis should be offered, i.e. to have critical self-reflection on the choices one has made as a researcher. References to other scholarly research are to be made. It is also important to briefly highlight the methods in which literature that has been gathered and read for the development of the article.

The article must be between 6000 and 8000 words, excluding the abstract (max. 250 words) and reference list. Relevant self-selected literature should be used. APA 7 is used to be used for all referencing and formatting of the article.

The article must have a cover page with the name of the article and the name of the candidate, the candidate's university or college, as well as noting that the article is submitted for the examination of course PLU8022.

**Exam deadline: Friday 4 June 2021**, sent to [rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no](mailto:rosemary.k.martin@ntnu.no) Results will be provided by email within approximately three weeks of the examination deadline.

### Author instructions, exam article PLU8022:

- The article should have a clear focus on the analysis of a research material.
- The problem the analysis seeks to address must be clearly stated in the article.
- A critical research question needs to be provided as motivation for the analysis and discussion.
- Choose a suitable title for your article.
- Languages that can be used for the article are Norwegian, Danish, Swedish or English.
- The article should start with an abstract of max 250 words.

### **Formatting:**

- Times New Roman size 12
- 1.5 line spacing in all parts of text, including quotation and reference list.
- Divide the text using headings and sub-headings for ease of reading and organization.
- Italicize names of books, journals, or artistic works mentioned.
- Place page numbers in the bottom right-hand corner of the page.

### **Pictures and illustrations:**

- Only use images and illustrations that you have been authorized to use.
- Note the name of the photographer / artist for any illustrations used.

### **Research ethics:**

- If you use personal data, directly or indirectly, in your article, NSD approval must be obtained. This approval should be attached to the examination text as an appendix.
- Research ethics rules must be followed, see [https://www.etikkom.no/research-ethics-guidelines / Social science-law-and-humanities /](https://www.etikkom.no/research-ethics-guidelines/Social-science-law-and-humanities/)

### **References:**

- Follow APA 7 for references within the text and for reference list.
- Direct quotations under 40 words are included within the running text and highlighted using quote marks.
- Direct quotations longer than 40 words should be marked as a separate paragraph with indentation and no quote marks.

### Assessment guidelines

Assessment: pass / fail

To be able to deliver the exam article candidates must:

- Have 80% attendance for all PLU8022 workshop days
- All 3 work requirements have to be completed and approved

For the exam article to be considered as 'passed', the candidate must illustrate the following in their article:

- In-depth knowledge of one qualitative research method - with an emphasis on the method of analysis.
- Good skills in qualitative analysis work, including both creativity and ethics, and can show this applied in specific processes of analysis of their own material
- Demonstrates the ability to select relevant methods of analysis related to their own material and research problem and can justify this choice.

The requirements for a publishable academic peer-reviewed article also have to be met. To qualify as 'academic' and of a 'publishable standard', the article must meet the following requirements:

- Present new insights to knowledge.
- Be in a form that makes the findings transparent and applicable for future research to leverage off.
- Use academic language and have a format that is expected for scholarly publication.

Peer review form

Manuscript title:

1. Please evaluate this manuscript according to the following criteria. Note: Each section of the recommended criteria may not necessarily apply to every manuscript.

<b>Please mark your evaluation with a cross for one:</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Not acceptable</b>
Pertinence of the subject to the theme in focus– do the text investigate relevant questions on the theme?					
Do the article challenge assumptions and offer new insight about the theme?					
Originality of the article					
Quality of the methodological approach (statement of the problem, theoretical references, methodology, presentation and analyses of the results)					
Logic and coherence of the article					
Strength and rigor of the argument					
Relevance of the conclusion					
Quality of the bibliographical references					
Clarity, accuracy and rigor of language					

**2. General comments/ overall assessment:**

(Including proposals for what to delete if the article exceeds the allowed number of words)

Reading list

**Compulsory reading:**

Kara, H. (2015). *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical guide*. Policy Press.

**Optional readings:**

A digital compendium of optional readings will follow.