

PhD COURSE

METHODS IN PARTICIPATORY AND INTERACTIVE RESEARCH

10th -13th May 2015

PhD-students are invited to a method course of 5 ECTS points at the University of Agder, Campus Grimstad, Norway, 10th – 13th May 2015.

Content

This method course focuses on methods for participatory, engaged and interactive research in business development. The methodology it relates to is research as a participatory process in social, political, territorial and economic development.

The link between agency, innovation and development is processual; communication (including virtual communication in mediating technologies and genres), network (globalized and locality), forms of relation and roles played out, including here the role of knowledge, experience, affect, and interest. Action research, participatory research, return to practice, co-operative inquiry, dialogical methods, etc. are some of the well-known methodological positions that are presented.

Teaching style

Lectures with dialogues, exercises in participative methods and interpretation of data, student presentations and discussions.

Learning objectives

This course aims to provide the student with critical insights into processes, relations and forms of participatory communication or dialogue that are key to understanding the connection between development and technological, organisational and social innovation. Hence, the course builds on perspectives in anthropology, urban studies, communication studies as well as more on knowledge-discursive management, economic and political theory and also various theories of communicative practice.

The course discusses grounded approaches to theory formation. The course critically addresses participatory research and discusses the methodological challenges it represents. It discusses this in relation to standard discussions on methods like validity, reliability, and generalisation. But it also discusses it in relation to trustworthiness, usefulness and reason. It positions these methods in different scientific discourses.

Knowledge

After finishing this course, the candidate should be able to identify different participatory methods and know how they are founded in different disciplinary traditions, and be able to discuss these methods in relation to scientific criteria.

Skills

The candidate should be able to compare participatory methods with other, more conventional scientific methods

General competence

The candidate should be able to develop a research design based on participatory principles and applied to a specific case.

Lecture plan

The course starts with a pre-meeting Sunday afternoon 10th May that includes an introduction to the course and its participants and an introduction lecture: *What is participatory research in relation to other forms of qualitative research?*

	Monday, May 11	Tuesday, May 12	Wednesday, May 13
Theme of the day	What does it mean to make research together with practitioners (principals)?	How do we do participatory research (methods, tools)?	How can we get valid data from participatory research?
9.00 - 12.00	Lectures and dialogue in plenary	Lectures and dialogue in plenary	Lectures and dialogue in plenary
12.0 – 13.00 Lunch			
13.00 – 15.00	Student presentations and discussions	Student presentations and discussions	Student presentations and discussions
15.30 – 17.00	Exercises and discussions	Exercises and discussions	Summing up of the course

Course literature

Books:

- Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln (eds.) (2013). *Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Blaikie, Norman (2010). *Designing Social Research*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Karlsen, James and Larrea, Miren (2014). *Territorial Development and Action Research: Innovation through Dialogue*. Farnham, Gower.
- Kindon, Sara, Rachel Pain and Mike Kesby. (2010). *Participatory Action Research Approaches and Methods: Connecting People, Participation and Place* London: Routledge Studies in Human Geography.

Articles:

- Eikeland, Olav (2012). Action Research and Organisational Learning – A Norwegian Approach to Doing Action Research in Complex Organisations, *Educational Action Research Journal*, Volume 20 (2), 267-290, June 2012.
- Eikeland, Olav (2012). Action Research; Applied Research, Intervention Research, Collaborative Research, Practitioner Research, or Praxis Research? *International Journal of Action Research*, 8 (1), 9-44.

- Gustavsen, Bjørn. (2004). Making knowledge actionable: from theoretical centralism to distributive constructivism. *Concepts and Transformation* 9:2 (2004), 147-180. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Gustavsen, Bjørn. (2005). Innovation and action research. *International Journal of Action Research*. Volume 1, Issue 3, 2005.
- Pålshaugen, Øyvind. (2009). How to generate knowledge from single case research on innovation. *International Journal of Action Research*, 5(3), 231-254.

Course coordinators

Professor Hans Christian Garmann Johnsen, School of Business and Law, University of Agder

Associate professor James Karlsen, School of Business and Law, University of Agder

Miren Larrea, Senior Researcher, Orkestra Basque Institute of Competitiveness and Desuto Business School, San Sebastian, Spain

Guest lecturers

Øyvind Pålshaugen

Language

English

Fee

The course is free.

Participation / registration

Please send request with affiliation and short description of your PhD work to james.karlsen@uia.no or hans.c.g.johnsen@uia.no

Enroll no later than

Monday 13th April 2015 - 12:00

Practical issues

The nearest airport is Kristiansand with direct flight to Oslo, Copenhagen and Amsterdam. The Grimstad Campus is located 45 km from the airport with bus connection. Transport to and from the Campus and accommodation will be organised. If you need transport or accommodation send [e-mail to:jorunn.vale@uia.no](mailto:jorunn.vale@uia.no)