

ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS (SOCI 6004)

Second Term, 2020-2021

Sino Building, 429, Wednesdays 11:30am-2:15pm

Instructor: Prof. Christian Greiffenhagen (Email: c.greiffenhagen@cuhk.edu.hk)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Assistant: Ms Xinzhi XU (Email: Xinzhi.Hsu@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course examines qualitative methods as used in social science research. Since qualitative research is both an ‘analytic mentality’ and a set of practical skills, the course will focus both discussions of key methodological and empirical readings as well as on practical skills, such as such as case and informant selection, field experiences, interview techniques, writing field notes, and analysing and writing qualitative data.

Readings: All students are expected to complete all readings before each class. Students will also be asked to prepare short discussion memos and serve as a facilitator for those readings. Assignments will be determined after the first class.

Projects: Students should expect to spend at least 3 hours in the field each week working on a project of their own design, employing two different ways to collect qualitative data (participant observation and in-depth interviewing). Each student will make two presentations about their ongoing project, the first focusing on the project proposal, the second on data collection and analysis. Assignments will be determined after the first class.

Writings: The writings in this course are geared towards exposing you to the various stages of participant-observation research as well as in-depth interviewing. This is to help you pursue your own multi-method research project with a heavy concentration on field research.

- *Project proposal:* You should spend the first three weeks developing a project proposal, which you will present in sessions four and five.
- *Fieldnotes:* Each student should spend at least three days doing participant observation. Students should prepare abridged fieldnotes for class discussion. (If you are unsure about an appropriate field site, please come and talk to me early on.)
- *Interviews notes/transcripts:* Each student should conduct at least three in-depth interviews and prepare one set of anonymised interview notes/transcripts for class discussion.
- *Methodological note:* You should prepare a log detailing your experiences of and insights into how you used the methods yourselves, drawing on from what you have done in the field and the readings.
- *Final report:* This research will be the basis of a final paper due at the end of the semester.