

Course syllabus for SLU PhD course

Coding qualitative data – principles and practice (PNS0205)

Higher education credits

5 HEC

Subject

Other social science

Course type

Subject course

Language

English

Prerequisites

Enrolled as a PhD student

Objective

With successful completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an ability to:

- discuss the principles of coding qualitative data
- discuss recognized criticisms of coding qualitative data
- acquire knowhow and ability to apply a chosen methodological approach to coding qualitative data
- conduct actual coding of qualitative data, demonstrating knowledge and ability with different techniques and tools.

Content

The course will be structured in four integrated blocks: 1) methodology of coding qualitative data; 2) practice of coding in different qualitative methods; 3) practical training in the Nvivo computer program; and 4) analysis of participants' own or provided qualitative data. The course will include two introductory seminars, with assigned preparatory readings; a two-day Nvivo training workshop with a follow-up seminar; and a concluding seminar where participants will present and discuss their own analyses.

Examination

Examination will be based on a final paper and presentation.

Contact for application and further information

Inquiries and application to the course should be sent to Richard Ferguson, SLU Department of Economics, via richard.ferguson@slu.se.

Applications should be written in English and include:

- name, affiliation, full address, e-mail and phone number
- name and affiliation of PhD supervisor
- short description of PhD project (0,5-1 page)

Literature

Course book: Saldaña, J. 2021. *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. 4th ed. Sage Pub.

Additional open access articles and papers presented at course introduction (1-5 works).

Additional Information

This course is offered through the *People, Society and Sustainability Research School*, organized by the Department of Economics and the Department of Urban and Rural Development.

Participant information for Coding qualitative data – principles and practice Spring 2025

Preliminary schedule (Dates are preliminary, to be discussed with participants)

Feb.11, 9:15-12.00, Introduction to coding qualitative data (basic technique and epistemology)

Feb. 24, 13:15-16:00, Practices of coding in quantitative methods

Feb. 28, 9:15-12.00, Nvivo training workshop

13:15-16:00 Practice with own data

Mar. 7, 9:15-12.00, Nvivo training workshop, pt 2

13:15-16:00 Q&A follow-up

Mar. 18, 13:15-16:00, Workshop assignment review & discussion of own analysis

Apr. 10, 13:15-16:00, Discussion of individual analyses

Literature

Linneberg and Korsgaard. 2019. “Coding Qualitative Data: A Synthesis Guiding the Novice.” *Qualitative Research Journal* 19 (3): 259–270. doi:[10.1108/QRJ-12-2018-0012](https://doi.org/10.1108/QRJ-12-2018-0012).

Saldaña, J. 2021. *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. 4th ed. Sage Pub.

Course activities

First seminar, Feb. 11, 9:15-12.00

Introduction to coding qualitative data

Preparation:

Please read: Linneberg & Korsgaard (2019); Saldaña (2021) chapters 1-3.

During the seminar:

We will briefly introduce ourselves and why we are interested in coding qualitative data. We will review the basic task of coding, differentiating between deductive, inductive and abductive approaches and their associated methodologies, with a focus on first-cycle coding. We will then work with a text, using some of the first-cycle techniques presented in Saldaña (2021).

Second seminar, Feb 24, 13:15-16:00

Practices of coding in quantitative methods

Preparations for the seminar at home:

Please read: Saldaña (2021) chapters 4-6.

Please read the excerpt of the interview, which will be distributed. You are to apply a first cycle coding to the article. After having done that, think about from the horizon of your own methodological/theoretical interest, how you would go about analyzing this text in a second cycle. Please prepare a note on your chosen method and a suggestion on second cycle coding.

During the seminar:

We are to discuss how coding in the first cycle looks like. We follow with an introductory on different second cycle path-ways to analysis. The final section of the seminar we discuss different pathways to second level analysis based on your

prepared materials.

Nvivo training workshop, Feb. 28 & Mar. 6

Preparation: Install on your own computer either a licensed version (licenses will be provided for the duration of the course) or the two-week free trial of Nvivo

Feb. 27, 9:00-12.15, Nvivo training workshop, pt. 1

13:15-16:00 Getting started with your own data

Mar. 7, 9:15-12.00, Nvivo training workshop, pt .2

13:15-16:00 Q&A follow-up

Third seminar Mar. 18, 13:15-16:00

Course assignment progress discussion

This seminar will be an opportunity to discuss progress on the individual course assignment. Come with questions and comments on the challenges you have/are faced/facing, either in coding or in working with Nvivo.

Fourth seminar Apr. 10, 13:15-16:00

Discussion of individual analyses

This seminar will focus on reflections on your learning process.

Preparations before the seminar:

You have tested and discussed how to use Nvivo to analyse your specific data set. You have fed your data to the program and tried to master the program to move from first to second cycle analyses. After the third seminar you are to test and go on with your analyses and conduct the first and second cycle analysis out of the specific perspective/method you chose. You are to prepare a presentation on your coding process, the importance of theoretical and methodological anchorage of the coding procedures stepping from cycle one to higher cycles of analysis. You have now tried Nvivo as a tool to assist you in this process. Think about advantages, disadvantages with the tool, hinders, barriers to overcome and opportunities.

During the seminar:

You are to discuss in small groups your experiences with analytical coding process and the use of Nvivo. We join in large group after half ways and sum up the experiences you made.

Assignment

Your assignment is based on the reflections prepared for the fourth seminar, i.e. your analysis of your text and your reflection on analytical steps of first and second cycle analysis as well as a reflection on Nvivo.

Note

This is a 5-credit course and therein has been planned with the intention for course participants to spend about three weeks of work time. We limit the number of seminar meeting to allow time for you to engage in your own coding and “learning-by-doing” of the NVivo program.