



Doing qualitative research: Methodological reflections in gender research

Att bedriva kvalitativ forskning: Metodologiska reflektioner i genusstudier

Credit points: 7,5

Responsible department: Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

Main field of study: Gender Studies

Level: Doctoral Studies

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass

Language: English

Course approval

The Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies has confirmed this course syllabus on 11 November 2024 and is valid from spring semester of 2025.

Aim and Contents

In this course the participants will explore and interpret the methodological and analytical challenges when doing interviews, observations and turning experiences into writing. With this focus, the course will be especially attuned to the specificities of the doctoral student's own use of qualitative methods, ethics, and writing. In approaching these thematic, the course will engage with the ethnographic field in relation to research which concern gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, nationality, postcoloniality and age. Throughout the course, emphasis will also be placed on ontological and epistemological positions. The aim of the course is to discuss and problematize ways in which ethnographic work can be carried out. What ethical issues can arise when qualitative methods and writing are being used, and how can these dilemmas be dealt with?

Expected learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course the doctoral student should:

Knowledge and understanding

- Account for methodological and analytical challenges of qualitative research, with special attention to ethnographic methods and writing within gender research.

Skills and abilities

- Be able to independently in written and oral form reflect upon the relationship between qualitative methods and ethical aspects.



- Be able to write and reflect upon their own use of qualitative methods in practice, and with feminist perspectives discuss methodological challenges.

Judgement and approach

- Be able to critically reflect on different aspects of ethnography within gender research and relate to concrete examples, theoretical, methodological and ethical dilemmas within his/her/their own research.

Form of instruction and examination modes

Part of the course is based on the participants searching for and selecting relevant literature. The course is given in English.

The learning outcomes are examined through compulsory seminars, written seminar preparation as well as an individually written essay. The essay should contain a discussion and critical examination of course literature and an application to the doctoral student's own research. The final paper can be written in either English or Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian.