Qualitative research may be defined as a research process that uses inductive data analysis to learn about the meaning and experiences that participants hold about a problem or issue, by identifying patterns or themes.

Throughout the academic year 2017 – 2018 the VUB organizes a series of two-day seminars in Qualitative Research. For each seminar participants are asked to bring into discussion their own study design and experiences as each two-day seminar is based on an interactive working group design. Both preliminary conceptual ideas on a planned qualitative oriented study as well as more elaborated study designs or even first research results are welcomed.

Trainer: dr. Hubert Van Puyenbroeck

Venue: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Elsene
Room: to be confirmed

1. Qualitative Research Design
Thur 12th October 2017, 10am – 4pm
Fri 13th October 2017, 10am – 4pm

This seminar provides the participants with an overview of the common frameworks that investigators bring to their qualitative research inquiries. This two-day seminar discusses several qualitative traditions that exist: narrative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case study design. The use of focus groups will also be highlighted. However, the preferred approach depends on the intent of the research. Since these frameworks influence the research design, the types of questions and problems examined, the approaches to data collection, analysis, evaluation and the writing of a summary of results.

2. Qualitative Research – Data Collection Methods
Thur 18th January 2018, 10am – 4pm
Fri 19th January 2018, 10am – 4pm

This two-day seminar discusses various data collection methods within several qualitative traditions: semi-structured interview, video data, participative observation, probing notes, etc. As these data collection methods influence the further data analysis and the kind of conclusions that may be drawn from the study, this seminar aims to outline the merits and the pitfalls of the various qualitative data collection methods.
3. Qualitative Research – Data Analysis
Thur 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 2018, 10am – 4pm
Fri 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 2018, 10am – 4pm

This two-day seminar discusses various data analysis methods within several qualitative traditions, including, among others, thematic analysis, listening guide method, and interpretative phenomenological analysis. As these data analysis methods influence both the choice in research design and data collection method, as well as the kind of conclusions that may be drawn from the study, this seminar aims to outline the merits and the pitfalls of the various qualitative data analysis methods.

4. Qualitative Research – Writing up your findings
Thur 24\textsuperscript{th} May 2018, 10am – 4pm
Fri 25\textsuperscript{th} May 2018, 10am – 4pm

This two-day seminar discusses the process of writing up your findings based on various qualitative research methods. The kind of conclusions that may be drawn from a study are influenced by both the merits and the limits of the methods used for data collection and data analysis.