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 2018-2019 the VUB organizes a series of basic level seminars in Qualitative Research.

For each seminar participants are asked to bring into discussion their own study design and experiences as each 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
level: basic level, no experience required

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

Monday 15/10 - Research Design, incl. Research Integrity & Ethics (basic level)
- This seminar provides the participants with an overview of the common frameworks that investigators bring to their qualitative research inquiries. This seminar discusses several qualitative traditions that exist: narrative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case study design, the use of focus groups. The preferred approach depends on the intent of the research. The framework chosen influences the research design, the types of questions and problems examined, the approaches to data collection, data analysis and the writing of a summary of results.

Tuesday 23/10 - Data Collection & Analysis: Doing Interviews and using Thematic Analysis (basic level)
- As the data collection method influences the further data analysis and the kind of conclusions that may be drawn from your study, this seminar aims to outline the merits and the pitfalls of Thematic Analysis (TA). A concrete step-by-step procedure for doing TA will be outlined with illustrative examples.

Wednesday 7/11 - Data Collection & Analysis: Doing Interviews, and using Narrative Analysis (basic level)
- As the data collection method influences the further data analysis and the kind of conclusions that may be drawn from your study, this seminar aims to outline the merits and the pitfalls of the Listening Guide Method (LGM) as a widely used narrative research method. A concrete step-by-step procedure for doing LGM will be outlined with illustrative examples.

Friday 14/12 - Data Collection & Analysis: Doing Focus Groups, and analyzing the data (basic level)
- As the data collection method influences the further data analysis and the kind of conclusions that may be drawn from your study, this seminar aims to outline the merits and the pitfalls of the use of Focus Groups (FG) as a widely used narrative research method. A concrete step-by-step procedure for the use of FG will be outlined with illustrative examples.
**Thursday 10/01 - Writing up your findings: the principles of getting your work published (basic level)**

- This seminar discusses the process of writing up your findings based on qualitative research. 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. It is key to refer to the original research question, to the way in which criteria for qualitative research are met and to the decisions that were made throughout the research process. A concrete step-by-step procedure for writing up your findings in a manuscript to be published in an international journal will be outlined with illustrative examples.

**Tuesday 22/01 - Writing Seminar (basic level)**

- In this one-day seminar, we start writing a manuscript based on the participant’s study. Participants bring in discussion their first drafts of a manuscript that is in the process. This is a writing seminar which requires that the participant has already some data to report on.