



Workshop on Qualitative Research in Economics

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Location: Freie Universität Berlin
Room 003
Boltzmannstraße 1, 14195 Berlin

I. Description:

Doing quantitative or qualitative research seems to have become almost an identity question in contemporary social sciences. This is a rather strange, unscientific position for academics. This workshop starts from the premise that the basic logic of research is not different for quantitative and qualitative research. It wants to encourage the use of mixed methods generally and, specifically, to show quantitative research can be enriched by following up with qualitative methods. Comparative systems designs allow to identify causal mechanisms that are not uni-directional (e.g. policy feedback loops) or powerful but specific to circumstances (hence not highly significant in a regression). We concentrate on the basic idea of comparative research and then practice the design of case studies, relevant to students of (in-)equality and finance.

II. Participation requirements:

- Participation is only possible with prior registration. Please register by November 17 by contacting carmen.marull@fu-berlin.de. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.
- Participants are expected to read all mandatory texts.

III. Detailed Workshop schedule

10:30 – 11:30	Why qualitative methods in economics
11:45 – 13:00	Introduction to the exercise
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	Design of a comparative case study <i>For this activity, two groups will be formed: one with a macro-level focus and the other with a micro-level focus. Both groups will relate their respective level of the economy to finance and inequality.</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Presentation and discussion of case study designs

IV. Mandatory Readings ([available here](#)):

For all:

- Hancké, B. (2009). Research in the Social Sciences. *Intelligent research design: A guide for beginning researchers in the social sciences*. Oxford University Press.
- Hancké, B. (2009). Constructing case studies and comparisons. *Intelligent research design: A guide for beginning researchers in the social sciences*. Oxford University Press.

For the case study exercise, please read one of the following articles. You will then participate in the respective group to discuss a comparative research design:

Working group with microeconomic focus:

- Hewa-Wellalage, N., S. Boubaker, et al. (2022). "The gender gap in access to finance: Evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic." *Finance Research Letters* 46: 1-9.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.frl.2021.102329>

Working group with macroeconomic focus:

- Elu, J. and M. Williams (2023). "COVID-19 Cryptocurrency Investment: Wealth Disparities and Portfolio Diversification." *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy* 6(1): 53-59.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41996-022-00108-6>