



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

TIC04\_DIP\_CPS

## Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2020/2021

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURES, POLITICS AND SOCIETY

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 30 hours

### COURSE TITLE

**Qualitative Methods in Global South Studies**

### TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

### SCIENTIFIC AREA

Economic and political Geography

### LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

The Degree Course is entirely taught in English

### COURSE SUMMARY

The course concentrates on how to design and manage a research project in the Global South. It focuses on:

Introduction to fieldwork in Global South contexts, including researcher positioning, reflexivity and diaries.

Qualitative research questions, research designs and methodological choices.

Intro to triangulation, qualitative analysis and quality evaluation.

Interview methods - approaches, skills and preparation.

Focus group methods - organisation, facilitation skills and topic guides.

Participatory, visual and performative methods, and documentation.

Introduction to innovative participatory research processes such as participatory video, digital storytelling, ground level panels.

Introduction to multi-country research partnerships and challenging research such as with highly marginalised groups or in unaccountable or contested contexts.

Developing and planning a research project.

Organising and managing fieldwork including building partnerships and research relationships, and technical and logistic aspects.

Ethics and ethics review.

Preparing for fieldwork challenges and mitigating risks.

In the second part of the course students - divided into groups - are invited to present and discuss a concise field research project in the Global South paying attention to accurately identifying the research question, the chosen methodology and the organization of the activities.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The overall purpose of this course is to prepare students for designing, managing and carrying out qualitative research projects in the Global South. In so doing the course aims at providing the skills and research competences required to operate in the context of international development, theme which is central to the Master's degree in Area and Global Studies for International Cooperation.

To achieve this there are three related aims: i) to develop the theoretical understanding and practical skills needed to define appropriate research questions, and make effective design and methods choices; ii) to equip them to competently manage the organisational, technical, logistical, ethical, communication and safety aspects of research partnerships in the Global South; iii) to embed the knowledge and skills through practice, and planning, critically reflecting on and communicating about real-world projects and applications.

### **TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)**

This course is designed as active learning, to maximise the potential for students to successfully carry out research projects in real-world contexts. This means each topic will include introductory input, but will be largely delivered through workshops and participatory exercises in small groups. Knowledge and awareness will be developed through considering concrete qualitative research projects. Their skills in using methods and convening/facilitating participatory exercise will also be developed through experience during the classroom activities and exercises and reflection afterwards. Students will be expected to prepare for discussions and practical activities through undertaking key readings and tasks beforehand. They will also be required to continue and complete activities outside class time. In the second part students will be divided into groups, and will work together on planning a research project in the Global South for the final exam.

### **LAB ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)**

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES (IF APPLICABLE)**

### **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE DESCRIPTION**

The visiting professor needs to hold:

- in-depth experience in the field of development and post-development studies (documented by publications, the coordination of research projects and activities, and teaching experiences);
- in-depth experience in the use of qualitative research methods within projects in the Global South (coordination and/or participation to national and international research projects and networks which made use of qualitative methodologies, publications concerning qualitative methodologies)
- in-depth experience in teaching qualitative methods in University courses.

The above research experience in the field of development studies and qualitative research methods in Global South studies must be substantiated by relevant publications in international journals.

### **CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT**

Prof. Elisa Bignante

[elisa.bignante@unito.it](mailto:elisa.bignante@unito.it)