

RSS02.B4 Qualitative Data Analysis: Research Designs and Practices

Day 1:

To provide reflective grounding in the conceptual foundations, on Day 1 we will address key approaches to thematic analysis and outline ways in which this transtheoretical data analytic technique can be incorporated into a variety of research designs.

Day 2 and 3

On Day 2 and Day 3, we will focus on pattern-based techniques and tools by which data can be successfully analyzed within comparable case strategy as a research design. By outlining ways to use thematic analysis for within-case and cross-case analysis, we will learn to engage in code and theme development processes while improving competences for generating both descriptive and explanatory inferences.

Day 4 and 5

On Day 4 and Day 5, we will focus on the ways in which pattern-based data analysis can be used successfully in conjunction with the process tracing approach. As we situate thematic analysis into the context of the within-case explanatory research setting, we will examine the assumptions, steps, and techniques by which data collected in a process-tracing study can be managed, coded, displayed, and used for causal mechanistic inferencing.

By combining interactive lectures with exercises on sample data with the NVivo software, we will critically reflect on assumptions, research goals, and quality standards, and thus apply data analysis techniques aligned with comparable case and process tracing designs. Furthermore, through daily assignments, discussions, and consultations, we will assess the applicability of each design in relation to the participants' research contexts. Finally, through class assignments and group exercises on real-data examples we will expose not only how the implementation of thematic analysis in the context of case-based research designs looks like in practice, but also what challenges we encounter and what solutions we can implement