Qualitative Data Analysis
Digital Social Research: Methods Options - Group B

Academic Year: 2016-17, Hilary Term
Day and time: Weeks 6-9, Wednesdays 11:30-1:30
Location: TBC

Course Convenors
Eric T. Meyer, Professor of Social Informatics, eric.meyer@oii.ox.ac.uk, Tel. (0) 1865 287218
Matt Willis, Researcher, matthew.willis@oii.ox.ac.uk

Background
Analysis of qualitative data gathered during the course of social research about the Internet requires both a set of specialized skills and an understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative approaches to social research. This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to carry out qualitative data analysis of a variety of kinds of data (e.g. text, photos, videos) collected from both online and offline settings. Students will gain familiarity with techniques for using a variety of Internet-related methods, and will understand their challenges.

Prerequisite
Since this course works from the assumption that the student has already gathered qualitative data that they wish to analyse, students should have done one of the following prior to taking this course:

1. Taken “Digital Ethnography” module in the first half of Hilary Term
2. Taken “Digital Interviewing” module in the first half of Hilary term
3. Gained permission from the convenor. Permission will be granted to students who can demonstrate they have a body of qualitative data (from any source/sources) in hand which they wish to analyse.

Course Objectives and Outcomes
This course is designed to give students experience analysing qualitative data, and to give them a conceptual understanding of the reasons for using qualitative analytic approaches, the limits of the techniques they will be using, and the opportunities and challenges unique to qualitative social research methods and the Internet.

Each week, students will develop their conceptual understanding and analysis skills via the discussion of key academic texts and through working with authentic qualitative data. Sessions will require the students to work with and analyse the data they have collected, using appropriate methods and software.
At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe various approaches to interpretation of qualitative data
- Learn about different qualitative analysis software options in order to identify a suitable package that meets the specific analytical needs of their research projects.
- Use qualitative analysis software to assist in organising and managing qualitative data.
- Develop their analysis skills and learn how qualitative data analysis works in practice.
- Develop coding schemes corresponding to the theoretical orientation, research questions and analytical strategy of their final assignment for the course.
- Apply analytic techniques to qualitative data, and write a paper based on that analysis.

Teaching Arrangements
The course will be taught during the second half of Hilary term in four weekly classes, consisting of a mix of lectures, hands-on work, student presentations, and seminar discussion.

Each student will be required to submit formative work throughout the term.

- **Every week** all students should submit two questions raised by the readings or assignments for the week via Plato. These questions should be a combination of critical questions on the themes of the reading and questions about anything you don't understand, either in the readings or in the course more generally. These should be submitted by **noon on Tuesday** preceding the class.
- Additionally, two specific formative assignments are indicated in the weekly reading lists, and are due by **noon on the Monday** preceding the class. These formative assignments should be submitted via Plato.

**Note**
Students should note that over the course of the year, small changes may be made to the content, dates or teaching arrangements set out in this reading list, at the course provider's discretion. These changes will be communicated to students directly and will be noted on the internal course information website.

Summative Assessment
The course will be formally assessed by means of a final report of approximately 2,500 words on the case study project each student has carried out during the course. This report will focus on a short but critical analysis of related literature, a presentation of findings, suggestions for future work suggested by the project, and several required appendices (which are in addition to the 2,500 words) that detail the coding structure, coding methods, and tests of reliability. Additional details about the form, content, and structure of the report will be discussed during class sessions.

The report is due on **Friday of Hilary Term Week 10 (24 March)** by **12:00pm** and should be submitted via Weblearn. The report should follow the normal OII formatting guidelines.

Please note that the assessment for this course is different for DPhil students who would like to take the course for credit. DPhil students should speak to the course convenors for details.

Submission of Summative Assignments
The summative assignment for this course is due on Friday of Hilary Term Week 10 (24 March) by 12:00pm and should be submitted electronically via the Assignment Submission WebLearn Site. The assignment should also be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm on the same day to teaching@oii.ox.ac.uk. If anything goes wrong with your submission, email teaching@oii.ox.ac.uk immediately. In cases where a technical fault that is later determined to be a fault of the Weblearn system (and not a fault of your computer) prevents you submitting the assessment on time, having a time stamped email message will help the Proctors determine if your assessment will be accepted.

08/01/2016
Please note that you should not wait until the last minute to submit materials since Weblearn can run slowly at peak submission times and this is not considered a technical fault. Full instructions on using WebLearn for electronic submissions can be found on Plato under General Information. There is also an FAQ page on the Assignment Submission WebLearn Site.

Please note that work submitted after the deadline will be processed in the standard manner and, in addition, the late submission will be reported to the Proctors’ Office. If a student is concerned that they will not meet the deadline they must contact their college office or examinations school for advice. For details on the regulations for late and non-submissions please refer to the Proctors website at https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/examinations/candidates/.

Any student failing this assessment will need to follow the rules set out in the OII Examining Conventions regarding re-submitting failed work.

Topics
1. Foundations of Qualitative Research, and CAQDAS tools and approaches
2. Coding content
3. Advanced coding: axial coding, intercoder reliability
4. Analysing, interpreting, and reporting qualitative data

General Readings
Miles, Matthew B. and Huberman, Michael

Richards, Lyn

Saldaña, Johnny

Selected Internet Resources
NCRM ePrints Methods Archive: http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/view/subjects/. Particularly note the many publications in section 4.1: Data handling and data analysis, Qualitative Approaches, and section 5.2: Qualitative software.

CAQDAS Networking Project: http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk
Qual-Reading Bibliography Wiki: http://qual-reading.wikispaces.com/
Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research: http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs
Qualitative Inquiry Journal: http://qix.sagepub.com/
MIT OpenCourseWare resource list: http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/political-science/17-878-qualitative-research-design-and-methods-spring-2005/readings/

Key to Readings and Assignments
A reading list is given below for each class. Those items marked with an asterisk (*) are essential reading and MUST be read by all students in preparation for the class. Items which are not marked with an asterisk are additional suggested readings which can be consulted by students with relevant interests.

All assignments shown below should be prepared in advance of the class session for which they are assigned, and submitted to the course convenor by the deadlines given.

08/01/2016
Week 6: Foundations of Qualitative Research, and CAQDAS tools and approaches

In this session students will be introduced to some basic principles of qualitative research and a number of different approaches to qualitative data analysis (e.g. grounded theory, narrative research, conversation analysis and discourse analysis) will be explored. The session will build upon some of the ontological and epistemological ideas about qualitative research introduced in the methods course during the first term, including a discussion of the particular ethical challenges of qualitative research. The initial themes identified in this session will be developed and expanded in later weeks.

The second half of this week will provide students with a general overview of what qualitative data analysis entails. We will discuss different methods and approaches to qualitative analysis with a particular emphasis on the role software packages can play in this process. We will outline how specific packages have different features that can be used for different purposes. Having engaged with the affordances of different software options, students will be asked to reflect on the characteristics and challenges of the data they are planning to collect for their final course assignment. Based on this, students will decide which software package would be most appropriate for their data analysis.

Readings


Assignment

Bring a laptop computer (Mac or PC) to class on which you are able to install software and access the internet.

08/01/2016
**Week 7: Coding content**

Students will also be introduced to a range of techniques and software for dealing with qualitative data in all its forms (e.g. field notes, photographs, audio or video recordings, documents of varying types, archival data). Coding and codebooks will be discussed, as will methods for organizing qualitative data.

### Readings

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huberman, Michael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neuendorf, Kimberly</td>
<td>The Content Analysis Guidebook. 2002. Thousand Oaks: Sage. (Also accompanying website has some useful information: <a href="http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/">http://academic.csuohio.edu/kneuendorf/content/</a>)</td>
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<td>Jewitt, Carey</td>
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### Formative Assignment 1

Write a short annotated catalogue discussing the data you are using for your analysis. Discuss any issues unique to your data, in terms of how you will have to work with them. Bring this data catalogue to class as well to discuss with your peers.
Week 8: Advanced coding: axial coding, intercoder reliability, and more

Students will continue with data analysis using more advanced techniques. Students will discuss their progress on answering their research question(s). Issues in relation to research quality and validity will also be discussed and demonstrated.

Readings

* Richards, Lyn
  Part III: Making Sense of Your Data

* Miles, M.B Huberman, A.M.
  Chapter 6: Within-Case Displays: Explaining and Predicting, pp. 143-170
  Chapter 10 (partially): Making good sense: Drawing and verifying conclusions, pp. 245-263 only

* Joyce, Mary
  Picking the Best Intercoder Reliability Statistic for your Digital Activism Content Analysis. 2013. Online: http://digital-activism.org/2013/05/picking-the-best-intercoder-reliability-statistic-for-your-digital-activism-content-analysis/

* Saldaña, Johnny
  Five: Second Cycle Coding Methods
  Six: After Second Cycle Coding
  Note: These are optional, but highly recommended to at least skim through them to find examples most relevant to your work.

* Lombard, M. Snyder-Duch, J. Bracken, C. C.

* Jensen, Klaus Bruhn Helles, Rasmus
  ‘Who do you think we are?’ - A content analysis of websites as participatory resources for politics, business, and civil society. 2005.
  Available at: www.modinet.dk/pdf/antologier/InternetDemocracyModinet.pdf

Formative Assignment 2
Submit the coding scheme developed as the result of week 2, and include a few paragraphs discussing how you choose what to include in the coding scheme, and any lessons you have learned from this.
**Week 9: Analysing, interpreting, and reporting qualitative data**

In this session students will consider the nature of validity and reliability in qualitative research, the ways in which qualitative researchers try to address questions of rigour in their work, and then apply some of these ideas to the analysis of their own case study. This session will build upon ideas presented in the core research methods course, and will include working with data students have been using. It will also discuss methods and modes of reporting qualitative analysis.

**Readings**

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<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Edition and Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seale, Clive</td>
<td>Qualitative Research In practice</td>
<td>2007. London: Sage</td>
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