Qualitative Research Methods

Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, Chapel Hill, NC
August 1-3, 2018
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research

Instructor: Paul Mihas, Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

August 1

Morning Session
I. Introduction
   a. Qualitative perspectives
   b. Qualitative continuum: From psychometric to heuristic
   c. Descriptive & interpretive studies

II. Research Design
   a. Dimensions of design (time, comparisons, purposes)
   b. Levels of inquiry
   c. Research questions
   d. Typologies
   e. Triangulation

Afternoon Session
I. Methods: Memos
   a. Key-quote memos
   b. Document reflection memos
   c. Methods memos
   d. Positionality memos
   e. Theoretical memos

II. Methods: Using Visual Tools
   a. Working with core quotations
   b. Capturing meaning using diagrams
   c. Privileging the participant’s world
August 2

Methods: Coding as a Strategic Tool
   a. Deductive coding
   b. Inductive coding
   c. Moving from descriptive to interpretive coding

Qualitative Analysis
   a. Integrating codes and memos
   b. Bridging concepts
   c. Finding conceptual connections within and across data

Afternoon Session
I. Using Qualitative Software: ATLAS.ti for the PC
   a. Early stages of engaging data
   b. Diagrams: Episode profiles
   c. Coding

II. Asking Analytical Questions in ATLAS.ti for the PC
   a. Diagrams: Code connections
   b. Analytical strategies

August 3

Morning Session
I. Revisiting Qualitative Traditions
   a. Grounded theory
   b. Narrative analysis
   c. Case study

Afternoon Session
I. Principles of Data Collection
   a. Interviews: From structured to intensive
   b. Focus groups: The group as unit

II. Research Products

III. Q & A: Class discussion
Suggested Readings

**Narrative Analysis**


**Grounded Theory**


**Case Study**


**Pragmatic**


**General**


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**Paul Mihas** is the Assistant Director of Education and Qualitative Research at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the former managing editor of *Social Forces*, a journal of sociology published at the University of North
Carolina Press. He has partnered with ResearchTalk Inc. since 2001 as a senior qualitative analysis consultant and has lectured on qualitative methods, software, and strategies for analysis at several universities, including the University of Puerto Rico and Howard University. Since 2013, he has taught at the Global School in Empirical Research Methods at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. He has also served as faculty at the annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive and as a mentor at ResearchTalk’s Qualitative Data Analysis Camps. Mihas is a co-author with Ray Maietta on Sort and Sift, Think and Shift (forthcoming, Routledge). His interests include mixed methods and approaches to incorporating memo writing in analysis; his current research focuses on cancer survivors and identities of survivorship.