ICPSR: Introduction to Mixed Methods

Wednesday, May 20 to Friday, May 22, 2020
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Course Description:
Social scientists are often interested in untangling complex social issues, which require creative and expansive data and methods to address. The goal of the course is to introduce students to conceptual and practical frameworks and considerations in developing, designing, implementing, executing, analyzing, presenting, and writing up mixed methods research. Mixed methods research typically refers to research design and implementation that combines qualitative and quantitative data collection and/or analysis techniques. In the course we will interrogate the utility of mixed methods research in light of the limitations of any specific methodological tool and approach, and review the theory and practice of mixed methods research in the social sciences. We will focus on practical tools and challenges confronted across the stages of mixed methods research.

Course Goals and Structure:
The goals of the course are to introduce participants to mixed methods research, provide an overview and introduction to: development and design of mixed methods research, as well as its implementation, the analysis of mixed methods research and its dissemination (write up, presentation) and how to evaluate empirical mixed methods research. We’ll address theoretical and conceptual concerns together with practical challenges and tips.

This is a short course and we’ll be taking in a lot of information in a short period of time. To make the course most useful to participants, it would be helpful if you bring a rough sketch of a mixed methods research study including (a) research question(s) that you are thinking through/about.

There are no prerequisites for the course but the instructor assumes a working knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research.

Instructor:
Shiri Noy is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Denison University. She earned her PhD in Sociology at Indiana University, Bloomington, with a minor in Social Science Research Methods. She has taught both graduate and undergraduate research methods, and has conducted and published interdisciplinary and sociological research across methods and in mixed methods. Quantitatively, she has collected survey data, and has published research using both original and secondary data employing latent class analysis, regression models for both linear and categorical data, including hierarchical models, cross-section time-series analyses and selection models. She conducts comparative analyses using country-level and individual-level data as well as experimental survey data analyses and social network analysis. Qualitatively, she has conducted research in several countries, utilizing process tracing and has conducted and analyzed interviews and focus groups, as well as content analysis of policy documents. Dr. Noy has recently published a book: a mixed methods analysis of the World Bank’s effect on health policy in Latin America (Banking on Health, Palgrave Macmillan 2017). She is fundamentally interested in how we approach ways of understanding the social world, and how best to collect and analyze data that helps us untangle and address issues of substantive, conceptual, theoretical, and empirical interest.
Introduction and Overview of Mixed Methods Research

Suggested Readings:

Logics of Inquiry and Research Question(s)

Suggested Readings:

Validity, Reliability, and Generalizability in Mixed Methods Research

Suggested Readings:
Data Collection and Instrumentation in Mixed Methods Research

Suggested Readings:

Data Analysis, Management, and Workflow

Suggested Readings:

Publishing, Presenting, and Evaluating of Mixed Methods Research

Suggested Readings: