



## Small - N, Qualitative Methods

**Purpose:** The aim of the course is to introduce students who are at the start of their research, to the analytical advantages and disadvantages of small N studies (e.g. Case studies) and rigorous qualitative methods. Comparison will be made with large N quantitative studies

**Course responsible:** Professor Peter Maskel, CBS

**Lectures:** Professor Peter Abell, CBS/LSE; Associate Professor Kjell Tryggestad, CBS and Kai Hockerts, CBS.

**Content of the course:** The course will present different views on how to work with qualitative methods and Small N. Friday afternoon a round table discussion about the different approaches to Small N studies will be arranged.

### Monday - Thursday, Kai Hockerts

- Design of qualitative research studies (deciding when to use a qualitative approach, problem formulation and design choice, sampling and preparation). Interactive discussion on choices made among the students.
- Collecting and documenting data: Interviews.
- Collecting and documenting data: Focus groups. Collecting and documenting data: Observation and ethnography
- Discussion on misc. issues relating to the course

### Wednesday, Kjell Tryggestad

- What is a case? (and what it is not)
- The boundary of a case study
- Case study & small numbers
- On explanation and negotiated boundaries in case research
- Useful metaphors for the case researcher
- How to conduct case research
- Useful techniques for the case researcher
- On the theoretical significance of case research

### Thursday - Friday, Peter Abell

- Some typical small number (case-studies) problems
- The explanatory bases of small N studies
- The role of theory and different levels of abstraction (Individuals, group organisations)
- Boolean analyses of cases
- Network analyses of small groups
- Sequence analysis - Event structure analysis
- Narrative analysis.

The PhD School in  
Economics and  
Business Administration

**Date:**  
May 1-5 2006

**Time:**  
10-12 and 13-17

**Place:**  
Copenhagen Business School

**Address:**  
Porcelænshaven 24  
DK-2000 Frederiksberg  
Denmark

**Room:**  
PH 211

**ECTS:** 5

**Fee:**  
6000 DKK (700 €)  
Not to be paid by PhD students  
enrolled at a Danish University

**Language:**  
English

**Participants max:**  
No more than 20

**Enrolment deadline:**  
April, 1 2006

**Applications to:**  
Kirsten Suhr Jacobsen  
phd-courses.ivs@cbs.dk  
stating your name, email,  
department and university

**Contact information:**  
Tel: +45 3815 2573  
mail: phd-courses.ivs@cbs.dk



**Prerequisite:**

The workshop is designed for first year doctoral students. Students in both management and in other related sciences can participate. Students will be expected to hand in a draft statement (max 1000 words) on their research proposal. The proposal must be send to [phd-courses.ivs@cbs.dk](mailto:phd-courses.ivs@cbs.dk) no later than April 24, 2006.

**Literature:**

Essential Reading:

- R.K. Yin; *“Case Study Research”*, Sage 1994

Selected reading from:

- M.B. Miles and A.M. Huberman; *“Qualitative data Analysis”*, Sage 1994C.
- Ragin; *“The Comparative method: Moving beyond Qualitative and Qualitative Methods”*, University of California Press 1987P.
- Abell; *“The Syntax of Social Life”* OUP 1988A. Abbott; *“Sequence Analysis: New Methods for Old Ideas”* Annual Rev. Soc. (1995)
- D.R. Heise; ‘Event Structure Analysis’ in “Using Computers in Qualitative Research” ed. N. Fielding and R Lee.C Ragin and H.S. Becker; *“What is a Case, Exploring its Foundations of Social Inquiry”*, CUP 1992.
- K. Eisenhart; ‘Building Theories from Case Study Record’ in *“Acad. of Manag. Rev.”* 1989
- K. Schutt *“Investigation the Social World”* Pine Forge Press 2001
- Weiss, Robert S; *“Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies”* New York: Free Press 1994 Latour, Bruno (1996)
- *Aramis or The Love of Technology*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Czarniawska, Barbara (1998) *A narrative approach to organization studies*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications
- McCloskey, D.N., *If You’re So Smart: The Narrative of Economic Expertise* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1990).
- McCloskey, D.N., Other Things Equal: The Bankruptcy of Statistical Significance, pp. 359-362 *Eastern Economic Journal* (1992) Vol. 18, No.3 Summer.
- McCloskey, D.N. & Ziliak, S.T., The Standard Error of Regression, pp. 97-111 *Journal of Economic Literature* (1996) Vol. 34 No.1 March.
- Latour, B. Woolgar, S., *Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1979/1986).
- Tryggestad, K. Natural and Political Markets – Organizing the Transfer of Technology and Knowledge. *Economy and Society* (2005 forthcoming)
- Tryggestad, K. Technological Strategy as Macro-actor: How humanness might be made of steel. In Barbara Czarniawska and Tor Hernes (eds) *Actor-network theory and organizing* (Oslo:Liber 2005 forthcoming)
- Flyvbjerg, B. Case research, In “Qualitative Research Practice”, red. Seale, Gobo, Gubrium & Silverman (Sage 2004)
- A.L. Strauss; *“Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists”* University of California Press 1987