

Ph.D. in “Life Course Research” – Socio-demographic curriculum

Academic Year 2023-2024

Introduction to case study research

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Objectives:

The purpose of this short introductory course is to provide entry level methodological competences and a sufficiently detailed overview of what is meant by case study research, its objectives, strengths and weaknesses and for which type of research questions this method is most suitable.

Program

Monday morning (Instructor: L. Burroni):

- When and why using case study research (definition of case study research, advantages and shortcomings of this method, types of case studies and their main pillars).
- Designing case studies (definition and components of research design in case study, the role of theory in case study research, case study protocol, internal and external validity in case studies, strategies for case selection).
- Data collection methods
- Ethical consideration in case study research

Tuesday morning (Instructor: A. Tonarelli):

- Case study and Biographical Methods (introduction to biographical methods, theoretical issues, fields of applications, examples of life history research, advantages and challenges).
- Practical tips for conducting life history research (identifying research questions and research process, choosing a sample, preparing yourself for undertaking interviews)
- Data collection and analysis (interviewing and recording experiences, the data analysis, writing up)
- Validity of biographical research and ethical consideration

Wednesday morning (Instructors: L Burroni; A. Tonarelli):

- Territorial and policy case studies: theory and practice

Thursday morning (Instructor: L. Burroni; A. Tonarelli):

- Organisational case studies: theory and practice

Suggested lecture

Robert Yin (2013) *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Method*, London, Sage

Barbara Merrill, Linden West (2009), *Using biographical Methods in Social Research*, London, Sage