

Innovating Qualitative Research: Challenges and Opportunities

European Sociological Association
Research Network 20 Qualitative Methods

Midterm Conference 2010
University Bayreuth, September 20–22

Call for Papers for Thematic Session

Qualitative Methods in Discourse Research

Since the impressive work of Michel Foucault in the 1960s and 1970s, discourse research in the social sciences – including education, history, political sciences, and sociology – has been oscillating between rather comprehensive theoretical interpretations of social macro-discourses, the analysis of "language in use" in the field of critical discourse analysis, linguistic pragmatics, conversation analysis rooted in ethnomethodology, or approaches informed by corpus linguistics. However, the last decade not only displays growth in the field of discourse research going far beyond this 'old establishment' of discourse analysis yet also the emergence of a rich debate on theoretical foundations, methodological reflections, and qualitative methods in 'doing discourse research.' These new directions in the field draw, for instance, on Foucault, interpretive social sciences, and the sociology of knowledge approach to discourse. If, according to Foucault, discourses are considered to be practices of power/knowledge formation, discourse research will need to take into account not only textual data yet all kinds of data and methods which are able to account for the heterogeneous (and often transnational) material nature of discourse production and circulation, including interview, ethnography and visual methods.

The session invites participants to discuss and report reflection and research on the following themes:

- links between the theoretical foundations of discourse research and the use of qualitative methods (including their benefits and challenges),
- the use of qualitative methods of data collection and analysis/interpretation in discourse research, including for instance elements of grounded theory, situational analysis, frame analysis, sequence analysis, the analysis of textual, (audio)visual and ethnographic data, etc.
- further questions concerning the use of qualitative methods in discourse research.

Session Organizer: Prof. Dr. [Reiner Keller](#) (University of Koblenz-Landau)

Please submit abstracts (400 words maximum) describing your proposed papers to keller@uni-landau.de

Deadline for submission: 1.6.2010

Registration and further information about the conference: www.soz.uni-bayreuth.de