

<b>Course title:</b> <b>COMPARATIVE METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH</b>			
<b>Course coordinator:</b> <b>Prof. dr. Shulamit Ramon</b>			
<b>Lecturers:</b> <b>Prof. Dr. Shulamit Ramon, Prof. Dr. Darja Zaviršek, Prof. Dr. Tom Schmid,</b> <b>Assistant Prof. Dr. Claudia Schneider, Associate Prof. Dr. Vito Flaker, Prof. Dr. Aila-Leena Matthies</b>			
<b>No. of hours:</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Lectures:</b>	<b>30</b>
		<b>Seminars:</b>	<b>15</b>
		<b>Lab. Work/Fieldwork :</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other: Individual work by the student</b> <b>205</b>			
<b>ECTS: 10</b>			

2.			
Prerequisites:	<p>The student has to complete the second-level studies programmes; studies programmes providing education for occupation regulated by Directives of the European Union evaluated with at least 300 credits; existing university study programmes in social and applied sciences, art and humanities, exceptionally in other sciences.</p>		
3.			
Objectives of the course and intended learning outcomes (competences):	<p>The main objective of the module is to provide students with an overview of methodological issues and perspectives of high relevance to social work and social policy research. This will enhance students' knowledge of key concepts and research paradigms and of the comparative perspective. The students will acquire a reflective knowledge of the research process and the use of critical perspectives, both in examining a research text and in carrying out their own research. They will look at specific ethical dilemmas and will obtain the skills in using different research methods and different research frameworks while doing social work and policy research.</p>		
4.			
Envisaged learning outcomes:	<p>The module will offer a variety of social sciences and social work research methodologies, build on the doctoral students previous knowledge. Specifically the module will offer an interdisciplinary overview of key issues in qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods methodologies. It will help the students to design, develop and successfully complete the methodological part of the doctorate thesis, making them competent for future scientific research work in social work and social policy. The module will alert students and their supervisory team to further work needed on a specific issue related directly to their thesis and will offer opportunities for discussion with peers and module teachers. It will offer a forum for the periodical presentations of the doctoral dissertation.</p> <p>To enable greater focus and flexibility, each year the module</p>		

directors will decide on the major aspects they will focus in the delivery of that year, according to students' known focus in their dissertation.

5.

Contents (Syllabus outline):

**1. Research philosophy and values in social work and social policy research.**

The stakeholders in the research process;  
Ethical issues in research  
Disciplinary and interdisciplinary discourses;  
Dominant research paradigms, their underlying assumption on knowledge, history and development:  
Critical theories.

**2. Research frameworks, methods and perspectives.**

Comparative perspectives;  
Critical perspective in social work and social policy research;  
Historical perspective in social work research;  
Theory (hypothesis) testing approach  
Action Research: Participatory Action Research and Collaborative Inquiry;  
Case study: single case vs. multiple embedded case study;  
Quasi experimental designs;  
Phenomenological research;  
Ethnographic research;  
Grounded theory;  
Memory theories;  
Realistic evaluation;  
Validity and reliability, Trustworthiness and conformability

**3. Research methods and specific methodological tools:**

General frameworks: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed methods;  
Questionnaires;  
Surveys;  
Interviews (problem oriented interview);  
Biographical methods (narratives; oral histories);  
Self report and diaries;  
Focus groups;  
Use of documentary data .

**4. Implementing knowledge and theories into the research process.**

Key stages in the research process:  
Formulating research questions;  
Literature review;  
Creating a conceptual framework/ hypothesis formulation ;  
Establishing the research design;  
Applying for ethical approval;  
Data collection;

Data analysis (per quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods);  
Writing up the thesis;  
Dissemination of the research results.

6.

Literature:

1. Chamberlayne, P. Rustin, M. Wengraft, T. (ed)(2002) *Biography and Social Exclusion in Europe: Experience and Life Journeys*, The Policy Press, Bristol.
2. Chramaz, K. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory: A practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*, Sage.
3. Cresswell, J.W. (2003) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 2nd edition, Sage Publications, London.
4. Everitt, A. Hardiker, P. (1996) *Evaluation for Good Practice*, BASW Macmillan, Basingstoke.
5. Held, D. (1980) *Critical Theory: From Horkheimer to Habermans*, University of California Press
6. Kaplan, D. (2004) *The Sage handbook of Quantitative Methodology for Social Sciences*, Sage
7. Kohler Riessman, C. (ed) (1994) *Qualitative Studies in Social Work Research*, Sage Publications, London
8. Ramon, S. (ed) (2003) *Users Researching Health and Social Care: An Empowering Agenda?* Venture Press, Birmingham
9. Schmid, T, Flaker, V. (eds.). *Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit : Forschen in Sozialarbeit un Sozialwissenschaft*, (Böhlau Studienbücher BSB). Wien: Böhlau Verlag, 2006.
10. Seale, C, Gobo, G., Gubrium, J.F., Silverman, D. (ed) (2007) *Qualitative Research Practice*, Sage, London
11. Winter, R., Munn-Giddings, C. (2001) *A Handbook for Action Research in Health and Social Care*, Routledge, London.
12. Fraser, S., Lewis, V., Ding, S., Kellett, M., Robinson, C. (eds.) (2004), *Doing Research with Children and Young People*. Sage, The Open University, London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi.
13. Reinharz, S. (1992), *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. Oxford University Press. New York, Oxford.
14. Bulmer, M, Solomon, J. (eds.) (2004), *Researching race and racism*. Routledge, London and New York.
15. Nagy Hesse-Biber, Yaiser, M. L. (2004), *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research*. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford.
16. Fife, W. (2005), *Doing Fieldwork. Ethnographic Methods for research in Developing Countries and Beyond*. Palgrave, Macmillan, New York, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire.
17. Bohnsack, K. and Marotzky, W. and Meuser, M. (eds.) (2003), *Hauptbegriffe qualitativer Sozialforschung*, Opladen.
18. Lueger, M. (2000), *Grundlagen qualitativer Sozialforschung*. Wien.

<p>7. Teaching methods:</p>	<p>Lectures; seminars; workshops; student presentations. The students can gain the required credits with attendance at the lectures or with the participation at the seminars which are dealing with the above mentioned area. Students will be supervised during their self study hours. Since it is an international study programme, some classes will be delivered electronically (videoconferences, teleconferences, DVD, chat etc.).</p>
<p>8. Assessment methods:</p>	<p>The students will be required to show full knowledge of the required literature with emphasis on their own research topic. The assessment methods will include:</p> <p>Assessment of the individual research work related to the module; student's presentations of the methodological part of the doctoral thesis and/or writing and presentation of a subject related seminar paper. In special circumstances the student can ask to be assessed with oral or written exam instead of the above mentioned assessment methods.</p> <p>Seminar papers, projects, research work are graded according to the following grading scale:</p> <p>10 – excellent: outstanding performance with only minor errors  9 – very good: above the average standard but with some errors  8 – good: generally sound work with a number of notable errors  7 – satisfactory: fair but with significant shortcomings  6 – sufficient: performance meets the minimum criteria  1-5 – fail: performance does not meet the minimum criteria</p> <p>At the end of the module the student will gain 10 credits.</p>
<p>9. References (3-5):</p>	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Shulamit Ramon</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ramon, Shulamit./Castillo, H., Morant, N. (2001): Experiencing Personality Disorder: A Participative Research, International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 47, 4, 1-15.</li> <li>2) Ramon, Shulamit. (ed.) (2003): Users Researching Health and Social Care: An Empowering Agenda? Venture Press, Birmingham.</li> <li>3) Ramon, Shulamit. (2006): Users as research partners. In: Sapouna, L., Hermann, P. (ed) Knowledge in Mental Health: Reclaiming the Social, Nova Publishing, 39-57.</li> </ol>

**Prof. Dr. Darja Zaviršek**

- 1) Zaviršek, Darja (2002): Guest editorial: the ethnography of memory in social welfare and social work practice. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. 2002, št. 4, let. 11, str. 266-269.
- 2) Zaviršek, Darja (2000): MA Students' Reader: Social science methodologies from a feminist perspective: Volume 1, 2, Budapest, Central European University, Program on gender & culture, 1998, 1999, 2000.
- 3) Zaviršek, Darja (2006): Ethnographic research as the source of critical knowledge in social work and other caring professions. V: FLAKER, Vito (ur.), SCHMID, Tom (ur.). *Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit : Forschen in Sozialarbeit un Sozialwissenschaft*, (Böhlau Studienbücher BSB). Wien: Böhlau Verlag, Herbst 2006, pp. 125-144.
- 4) Zaviršek Darja (2006), Repping, Theo, Romanenkova, Lyudomya, Zorn, Jelka: *Forschung und Projektarbeit = Research and project work*, (European inclusion studies, Bd. 8). Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2006.

**Prof. Dr. Tom Schmid**

- 1) Schmid, Tom (2007): Qualität und ihre Bestimmbarkeit. In: *EntwicklungspartnerInnenschaft Donau – Quality in Inclusion* (Hg.): Sozialer Sektor im Wandel. Zur Qualitätsdebatte und Beauftragung von Sozialer Arbeit. Linz. S. 43 – 54.
- 2) Anastasiadis, Maria / Schmid, Tom (2007): Analysis of the overall conditions and the quality management in the Third Sector in Austria. In: *Zavod Hrastovec-Trate / Univerza v Ljubljani fakulteta socialno delo* (Eds.): *International Conference Mental Health – a Public and private matter*. Hrastovec and Ljubljana.
- 3) Schmid, Tom (2006): Prinzipien wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens. In: Flaker, Vito/Schmid, Tom (Hrg.) (2006): *Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit. Forschen in Sozialarbeit und Sozialwissenschaft*. Wien. S. 37 – 54.
- 4) Schmid, Tom (2006): Triangulation, Nutzwertanalyse und andere Methoden. In: Flaker, Vito/Schmid, Tom (Hrg.) (2006): *Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit. Forschen in Sozialarbeit und Sozialwissenschaft*. Wien. S. 435 – 452.

**Prof. Dr. Aila-Leena Matthies**

- 1) Hackett, Simon & Matthies, A-L. (2005), Towards research-oriented social work education in Europe. (Guest Editors) Editorial of the Special Issue. EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK. VOL 8. NO. 3. 245 - 246
- 2) Hackett, Simon & Matthies, A-L. (2005) Between science, practice and politics: practice research as a defining approach of social work research. EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK. VOL 8. NO. 3. 273 – 278.
- 3) Matthies, Aila-Leena. (2006), Report of the “state of knowledge” –project on research of third sector in the area of welfare services in Nordic countries. In Matthies, A-L (Ed.) Nordic Civic Society Organisations and the Future of Welfare Services. A model for Europe. Vålfärdsforskningsprogrammet. Nordic Council of Ministers. TemaNord 2006:517. pp. 13 – 156.
- 4) Matthies, A-L., Turunen, P., Albers, S., Boeck, Th., Närhi, K. (2000) Eco-social Approach against Social Exclusion in European Cities. A New Comparative Research Project in Progress. European Journal of Social Work. Oxford. Vol. 3 Issue 1. P.43 –52.

**Assist. Prof. Dr. Claudia Schneider**

- 1) Schneider, Claudia (forthcoming 2009): Structure and Agency in Immigration Research. In: Ramon, Shulamit and Zavirsek, Darja eds.: Critical issues in comparative social policy and social work research. Faculty of Social Work, Ljubljana.
- 2) Schneider, Claudia. (2006): ‘Skills and aspirations of migrant workers in East Anglia’, Ad Lib (spring issue).
- 3) Schneider, Claudia. (2005): A profile of migrant workers in Breckland/ Norfolk, East of England Observatory ([www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk](http://www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk)). Report for the Keystone Development Trust.

**Associate Prof. Dr. Vito Flaker**

- 1) Flaker, Vito and Schmid, Tom (Hrg.) (2006): Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit. Forschen in Sozialarbeit und Sozialwissenschaft. Wien.
- 2) Flaker, Vito (2006): Social work as a science of doing : in the praise of a minor profession. V: Flaker, V. (ur.), Schmid, T. (ur.). Von der Idee zur Forschungsarbeit : Forschen in

Sozialarbeit un Sozialwissenschaft, (Böhlau Studienbücher BSB). Wien: Böhlau Verlag, Herbst 2006, str. 55-78.

- 3) Flaker, Vito (2003/2004): Examining the basic and necessary skills and procedures in social work practice. In: Journal of social work, Theory and practice, N. 7.
- 4) Flaker, Vito (1996): Teams as means of interdisciplinary collaboration: developing community mental health in Slovenia. In: Berkowitz, N. (eds.) Humanistic approaches to health care: Venture press, Birmingham, 133-146.
- 5) Flaker, Vito (2002): Temeljne metode in nujne spretnosti socialnega dela, v: Lokalno - globalno - socialno / 1. kongres socialnega dela [Slovenije, Portorož, 17.-19. oktober 2002. Visoka šola za socialno delo, Ljubljana.