

Call for participants

SDNS Summer School in Qualitative Research Methods (26-30 September 2022)

Part 1

26-28 September (Monday – Wednesday)

Dr. Liam Foster is a senior lecturer in social policy and social work at the University of Sheffield, England, who specializes in pensions, extending working lives, and theories of ageing. Dr. Foster has developed a national and international profile in ageing and pensions. He has commented on retirement planning in the media, advised unions (TUC), been involved in projects with pension providers (AXA and Prudential) and charities (The Fawcett Society), and referenced by political parties (Labour's Older Women's Commission) in relation to pensions. He has presented his research at a variety of national and international conferences and has been an invited speaker at the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Education, the European Parliament in Brussels, the House of Lords, and the UN in New York as a world leading expert on ageing. Dr. Foster is a former member of the UK Social Policy Association Executive Committee and managing editor of *Social Policy and Society*. He has authored over 45 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, and has authored or edited six books. Dr Foster also has a longstanding interest in research methods and has published widely in this area, including Bryman's *Social Research Methods* (with Dr Tom Clark, Professor Luke Sloan and Professor Alan Bryman), *How to do Your Research Project or Dissertation* (with Dr Tom Clark and Professor Alan Bryman), and *Beginning Statistics for Social Scientists* (with Sir Ian Diamond and Dr Julie Jefferies). He was also awarded the 2021 UK Social Policy Association Policy Press Outstanding Teaching Award.

Day 1

Doing qualitative research and knowing your research (Monday, 26 September, 9.30 AM -3.30 PM).

Day 1 will involve a brief refresher on qualitative research, different approaches (interviews, focus groups, participant observation) and outcomes. There will also be a focus on being an ethical qualitative researcher. Through the use of activities, it will explore ethical challenges and approaches to overcoming these.

Day 2

Designing qualitative research and analysing qualitative data (Tuesday, 27 September, 9.30 AM - 3.30 PM)

The process of designing the research instrument has considerable implications for the quality of the data collected. Therefore this session will focus on accessing a sample, asking questions and developing an interview schedule. This session will guide you through the process of doing some qualitative thematic analysis and coding. It will also briefly consider the process of writing up your findings (including processes to eradicate writer's block).

Day3

Publishing in academia (Friday, 28 September, 9.30-12.30)

This session will focus on providing hints and tips to getting your work published. It will provide opportunities to ask questions to an experienced editor in a friendly environment.

Part 2

28-30 September (Wednesday – Friday)

Prof. Valentina Hlebec - Professor at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences. Valentina has an extensive knowledge of social methodology, especially on cognitive laboratory techniques, development and evaluation of measurement quality of survey measurement instruments. Lately she focuses on social welfare and informal/formal social care. Her research experience covers projects focused on reducing old-age social exclusion and active and healthy aging, addressing the needs of informal carers. She was leader of the research programme Quality of Life of Social Groups. In the past, she was a principal investigator in a number of national research projects focusing on social networks of older people, intergenerational solidarity, quality of social home care and community care for older people. She has (co)authored 112 scientific papers, seven monographs, and 30 chapters in the monographs and presented her work at numerous national and international conferences. She is also a member of the expert group EIGE (Working Group on the Gender Equality Index) and of EUROCAREERS (European Association working for carers). She is also editor of journal Advances in Methodology and Statistics.

Day 1

Focus groups .(FG) - introductory session (2.00 PM - 5.30 PM).

Day 1 will involve description of the workshop, setting groups and distribution of workshop materials.

Day 2

Focus groups in cognitive laboratory (9.30 AM - 6.30 PM)

The session will discuss Focus groups (FG) in cognitive laboratory, what they are good for and how to approach preparation and organization. It will guide you through the process of focus groups preparation, as well as organization within the groups. It will tackle issues regarding the preparation of recruitment (participants, recruitment materials), FG setting (moderator, co-moderator, guidelines, participants), and discuss the roles and guidelines in groups (preparing the test FG).

Day3

Focus groups – test FG and the analysis (9.30-12.30)

This session will discuss the test FG, and lessons learned (moderating, recruiting, guidelines). It will provide some hints for preparation of the analysis (how to answer research questions, levels of analysis, reporting).

Successful participation in each part of the summer school: 1 ECTS.

Application process:

Application is first open for the PhD students from SDNS UJ. The number of participants is limited to max. 15 persons in each part. To apply please fill in information in Forms by July 30th. You will be informed about results of recruitment in the first half of August.