# Interview and Questionnaire Methods and Techniques (with workshop)

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge and skills in psychosocial research, with particular reference to two investigation tools typical of qualitative and quantitative research approaches: the interview and the questionnaire.

At the end of the course, students will be able to design and apply interviews and questionnaires, and make methodological choices consistent with each tool.

Specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- design and carry out a psychosocial research interview and questionnaire;

- apply data collection tools in psychosocial research situations;

- analyse the data produced through these tools;

- communicate the results deriving from the data analysis to both an expert and the “lay” public.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two main modules: MODULE 1) theory and techniques of the interview; MODULE 2) theory and techniques of the questionnaire. The course contents are articulated as follows:

* Unit 0: Background and introduction to the differences between research by paradigms and applied research

***Module 1: Interview theory and techniques***

* Unit 1.1: Introduction to the interview: basic theoretical and methodological characteristics
* Unit 1.2: Rationale behind the interview: theory and applications
* Unit 1.3: The interview outline: theory and applications
* Unit 1.4: Conducting the interview: communicative-relational theory and techniques
* Unit 1.5: Data analysis and communication of the interview results: theories and ideas for practice

***Module 2: Questionnaire theory and techniques***

* Unit 2.1: Introduction to the questionnaire: basic theoretical and methodological characteristics
* Unit 2.2: Rationale behind the questionnaire: theory and applications
* Unit 2.3: The questionnaire outline: theory and applications
* Unit 2.4: Questionnaire development: from the pilot phase to fieldwork
* Unit 2.5: Analysis of questionnaire data: theories and ideas for practice
* Unit 2.6: Communication of results

***READING LIST***

***Reading list for the path based on the lecture contents***

Students will prepare themselves by studying the lecture notes, slides and supplementary materials published on the Blackboard platform, as well as by executing the ongoing practical exercises on the lecture contents.

***Reading list for the text-based path***

Students will also prepare by studying of the slides, of the integrative materials inserted on the Blackboard platform and the study of the compulsory texts:

S. Tusini, *La ricerca come relazione – l’intervista nelle scienze sociali,* F. Angeli, Milan, 2006.

M. Caselli, *Indagare col questionario,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2007, chaps. 4, 5, 6, 8.

Students can also study more in depth by consulting the following optional texts:

V.L. Zammuner, *Tecniche dell'intervista e del questionario,* Il Mulino.

Corbetta, *Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale,* Il Mulino, chap. 2.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will use a highly interactive teaching approach that will alternate between lectures, practical exercises supervised by the lecturer, and the discussion of case histories.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral interview that will focus on the knowledge and methodological skills acquired by students regarding the conception, design and implementation of the interview and questionnaire tools. Students will have to demonstrate their ability to orient themselves among the basic topics and issues discussed in the lectures, with particular attention to the practical exercises. Within this context, emphasis will be placed on the course readings (compulsory study texts), to be completed in a timely manner, although favouring the relevant aspects in the short course followed. The assessment will focus on the relevance of the student's answers, their appropriate use of the specific terminology, the reasoned and coherent structuring of their discourse, and their ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

Specifically, students must show their ability to correctly orient themselves between the interview and questionnaire selection criteria.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course, but it is strongly recommended to have followed and taken the first-year methodology course. An interest and intellectual curiosity in research and a willingness to work in a participatory perspective are also assumed.

Further information can be found on the lecturers’ webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.