

International Travel Grant Report

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“Advanced Course in Qualitative Research in Global Public Health - From Conceptualization to Write-up” – Center for Sundhet og Samfun University of Copenhagen

Contexts

I am a PhD student from Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) research group. My background is medical doctor and my PhD research topic is in building capacity of health programme managers in district health offices in Indonesia, using e-learning. It is an action research and I am using mixed methods data collection and analysis for the thesis.

Course Details

- Topics: Qualitative research methods in public health
 - o ontology and epistemology of qualitative research
 - o empirical and analytical objectives
 - o qualitative data collection and analysis: from the methods, interviewing techniques, transcribing, coding, creating themes to writing up;
 - o quality assurance,
 - o publishing qualitative research papers
- Learning methods:
 - o lectures, group discussion, plenum discussion, exercises, home reading and home assignments
- Social activities: group dinner and group trip to Medicinsk Museion

Perceived and potential benefits:

The group consisted of students and lecturers from different (but related) disciplines such as medicine, global health, environmental health, psychology, and anthropology; from universities in Denmark (Souther Denmark and Copenhagen), Norway (UiO and Trondheim), Tanzania, Spain, Bangladesh and Ghana.

Some of my main takeaways is getting feedbacks from related disciplines, how to describe and present my project to different audiences (because my project is interdisciplinary – global health, ICT, and education), new insights on possible theories. But I think the most important takeaway is how to properly conduct a qualitative research. I reflected on my current data and how I conduct my current research (and previous research) during the course and see where I can improve. This definitely help with my PhD project and I will use these knowledge a lot in my future works.

Perceptions on the course

I am glad to take this course at this point where I just started collecting my data. I could understand where I did wrong and I still have time to improve my research progress. I really recommend this course for other PhD students in health sciences who plan to do their research qualitatively; preferably with some ideas about their concepts and research ideas, or theoretical thoughts; and have started collecting data.

