

Report from participation in Advanced Course in Qualitative Research in Global Public Health

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I participated in the above mentioned course from April 23 to May 5, 2018. The course was held at the University of Copenhagen in collaboration with the University of Bergen and the Norwegian Research School of Global Health.

The course set out to cover qualitative research very broadly, from its epistemological foundations, through the difference between empirical and epistemological objectives and down to more hands on approaches to methods for data collection, analysis and writing.

While the first week focused on the underlying fundamentals for qualitative research and provided is with some very interesting examples of emergent designs and qualitative research in health, the second week covered more concrete topics such as analysis, appraisal of quality and writing.

Participating in this course has made me a lot more reflexive about my methodological choices. Through discussions on different approaches and methodologies both in class and in breaks, I have been able to think about why I have made the methodological choices that I have, and how I could benefit from drawing upon other approaches. I have become more aware of the epistemological position I am taking and how it is affecting the choices I make along the way. I have also gained skills that will help me communicate better about my research and methodological choices to researchers from other disciplines than my own.

Despite the course focusing on methodology, it has also made me rethink my conceptual and theoretical framework and given me new ideas of how to make the most of my study. The quality and variety of lecturers, as well as the engagement and generosity of my fellow participants made this course an excellent learning experience.

