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1. *What course did you attend?*

Title, place, dates.

- *Advanced Course in Qualitative Research in Global Public Health – From Conceptualization to Write-up*
- Copenhagen, Denmark (University of Copenhagen, School of Global Health in collaboration with University of Bergen)
- 23 April – 4 May 2018

2. *What was the course about?*

Topics, learning methods, (social) activities.

In the first week of the course, we focused on topics that are foundational to qualitative research such as: how to formulate and identify empirical and analytical objectives within a qualitative research study; what are the differences between epistemology, methodology, and methods; and how to apply these various concepts to your research design. In week two, the course shifted its emphasis to various theoretical perspectives and their applications in qualitative research; what to do with our data and the analysis process (contextualization, reflexivity, coding, interpretation, and themes); and finally the publishing process.

Throughout the course, the course instructors incorporated various teaching methods in order to engage different types of learning styles such as lectures, group work, presentations, group discussion, and individual reflection. This combination of teaching techniques provided an encouraging environment for all participants (no matter which stage we have completed in our research, background, or expertise in qualitative research methods) to connect and share.

Several participants also attended social activities outside of the course. On Thursday April, 26th participants went to a group dinner and discussed everything from our research, hometowns, and favorite foods. We also had a lovely dinner organized by course instructor, Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl before our last day of class and an outing to the exhibition on Architecture and Health at the Royal Danish School of Architecture on the final afternoon.



3. *How will you benefit from this course?*

Please describe what you have gained (knowledge, skills, collaborators, network, friends?), and how this will be useful to your PhD project and/or future career.

The course instructors were especially attentive and accommodating in the way that they facilitated the course. I felt that they were careful to make sure that everyone's voice was heard and they made an

effort to get to know our individual projects. Additionally, the course instructors invited guest speakers who matched each participant's research interests to speak about their research, which was helpful in applying concepts to our own research. I also admired how instructors would draw on their own PhD experience when teaching the course. This also helped me to relate to the content of the course. I felt that the lectures, guest speakers, and group work helped me to not only think about how I could improve my own PhD, but also reflect on what kind of researcher I want to be in the future.

All social activities were also a great opportunity for the participants who travelled from other countries to get to know each other outside of the classroom and make friendships that will extend beyond the scope of this course. I look forward to other opportunities to meet and work with the participants who attended this course in the future.

4. *How satisfied are you with the course?*

Positive and negative experiences. Would you recommend this course to other PhD students in global health?

Given that I am already halfway through my PhD, I had originally assumed that only certain components of the course would be helpful for my research, however, I felt that all components of the course were helpful for me to reflect on. For example, when we were focusing on the epistemology and theoretical components of the course, I was consistently thinking about how I could use what I am learning in the course to write up my dissertation. I think that sometimes I am too focused on my publications, however clearly explaining/justifying the thinking behind all parts of my research study is equally important. Something else that took me by surprise was Susan Whyte's lecture on contextualization. Context was something that I think I had taken for granted, a universal term. After her lecture, I realized I have more work to do.

The course focused in-depth on more anthropological approaches to qualitative research. Although, it is too late for me to change the methodology of my research study. I am grateful, that I was exposed to these methods. I feel that in the future I would be interested in incorporating these approaches into my research.

Given that my research is a participatory research study, I wish that we had focused more on this methodology however; I know that given time constraints it is impossible to accommodate everyone's specific needs in-depth. Although there were not specific lectures addressing PAR, I was able to talk in great depth about my study with the class and get feedback on specific components of the study. I felt that this was a great way to fulfill everyone's needs.

I was very satisfied with the course and I would definitely recommend it to all PhD students, even if you already have experience in qualitative research.