

Report from Flora Asah

Please make sure to answer the following questions in your report:

1. *What course/conference/workshop did you attend?*
Title, place, dates.

I attended a PhD course on “*Advanced Course in Qualitative Research in Public and Global Health*”, running from 6-16th May 2019 at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen

2. *What was the course/conference/workshop about?*
Topics, learning methods, (social) activities.

The course was a qualitative research methods course aimed at introducing students in to qualitative methodology. The course took students through the processes of research. That is from introduction or conceptualization to analysis and publication.

The course covered a wide range of topics. Without going into details, I shall list the broad themes:

- Conceptualization of qualitative research
- Epistemology and methodology
- Fieldwork and data collection
- Fieldwork gaining access to interviews

The learning methods were plenary session, group exercise, mini lecture, student group discussions, and one-to-one discussion with students who had specific issues and needed guidance on their product.

3. *How will you benefit from this course/conference/workshop?*
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.

As a PhD student, at the beginning of one’s study there is much time for reflection. We are so busy rushing to collect data, write and publish with little or no time to reflect on one entire project (i.e. my experience). To me this was a space to reflect. It gave me the space to look at the work in a whole, access and evaluate one’s self.

I attended this course when I had already did some my fieldwork and was about to start writing and using theory was my main challenged. I was one of those students who had very specific concerns. From interacting with the group of lecturers who were with us over the course period was wonderful. They helped to sharp my thoughts and gave a broader perspective to look at my research project. What I gained from the most is the readings or resources given to us. That has been my point of reference. Repeatedly I go back to the lecturer’s presentation for guidance

4. *How satisfied are you with the course/conference/workshop?*
Positive and negative experiences. Would you recommend this course to other PhD students in global health?

I am very satisfied with the course.

Positive experiences:

The lecturers introduced a system of writing any new concept on a piece of paper and past the wall. That to me was a very positive experience.

The use of different teaching methods

The range of experts. The course coordinator invited many lecturers with vast of knowledge from different domain actually enriched the course.

Negative: Although there were so many lecturers handling different aspect qualitative research, most of their experience came from ethnography methodology.

Research methods is a core course in the PhD program. At my faculty for example, PhD is done by publication. This is different from the traditional way of doing PhD. Most often, those of us from African university get involved in the attitude of writing paper and publishing without looking at their entire project. At the end, we are stocked and want to change their research question to feed into the papers we have written. This is happening because they did not plan or look at their project in a whole. I will recommend that this course be offered at the beginning of the academic year and every PhD student should be encouraged to attend. In addition, I have already recommended the course to some of my mates who did not attend and have shared the readings with them.

To my sponsor, once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the course. It was time and money well spent.