

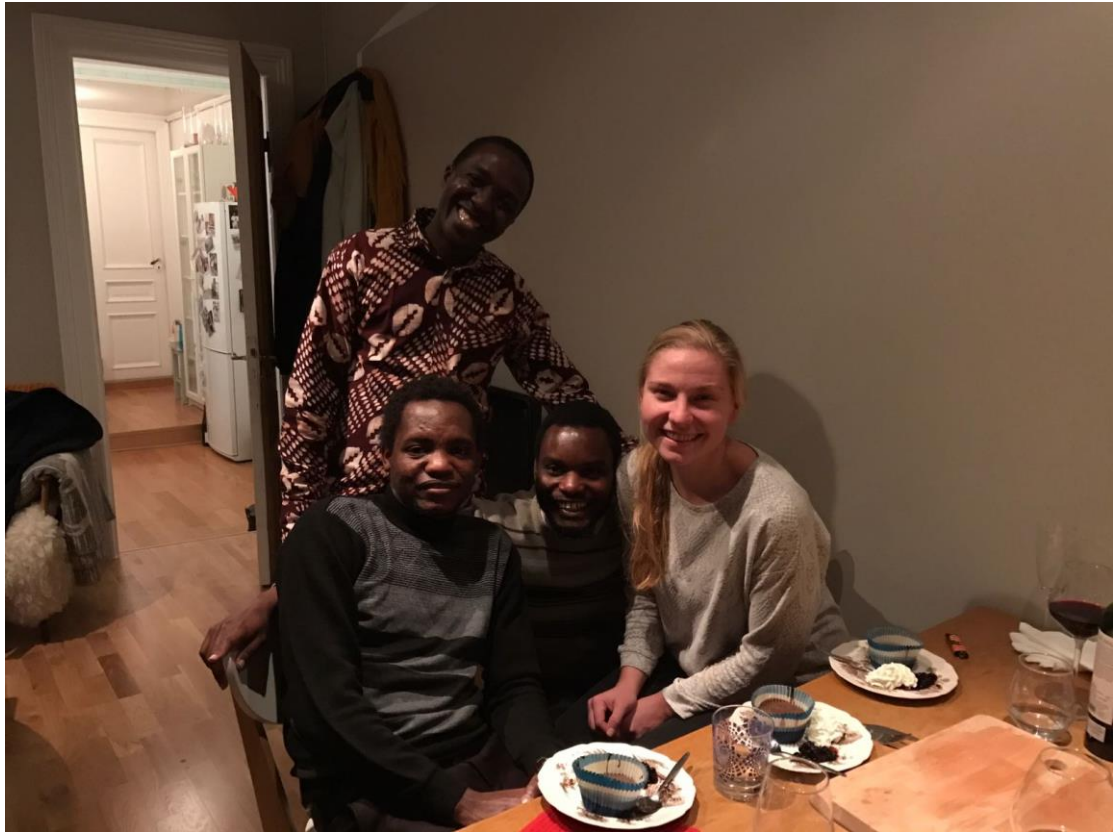
Report PhD-course in Qualitative Research Methods in Public Global Health at University of Bergen.

Maria Lisa Odland (NTNU) attended the PhD-course INTH923; Qualitative Research Methods for Global Public Health, which was held in Bergen between the 9th and 25th of January 2017.

The course was about methods used in qualitative research focusing on global health. It was nicely built up course starting with the background and terms used in qualitative research, then moving more over to different methods. Throughout the course there was different exercises, and there was a lot of participation from the students during class. We also had mandatory reading material we were expected to read before class each day. About half way through the course we were divided into groups where we did a small research project from start to beginning. We developed a research question and protocol, performed data collection, analyzed the data and presented it to class as an exam. There were not a lot of social activities during the course, but it was very social in and between classes. It was a very interesting combination of people from all over the world attending the course. In my group there was a general practitioner from Ethiopia, a physician from Kenya, a pediatrician from Kongo and a nurse/midwife from Malawi.

In my PhD- project I am planning to conduct focus group discussion with the health workers that participated in my project. I have no previous experience with qualitative research. This course gave a good introduction to what qualitative research is and which methods you can use. We also had to practice different methods; hence, the course prepared me to do focus group discussion when I get back to Malawi. Most importantly it gave me experience in how to analyze and present qualitative data, something I found very challenging. I also met a lot of people from all over the world, which I hope to keep in touch with and perhaps work with in the future. I know I will see some of them again already at the GLOBVAC conference and the PhD-conference at Stiklestad.

My all over impression of the course is good. It was a nice and friendly environment, but also a very professional and well-organized course. Most of the lectures were good, and I enjoyed that there were so many exercises, which really made you, participate and think during class. Personally, I don't like group work particular and felt that it made a lot of the work more time consuming. However, this might just be a part of the experience. The only other negative thing that comes to mind is maybe that they were too ambitious with the course material. Class went from about 8.30 to 3 pm every day, and then you were expected to read about 40-60 pages in the evening. They should find the most relevant reading material and make that mandatory so it's easier to know what to focus on, and so you actually get to read through everything before the class starts the next day. However, as previously mentioned generally a good experience where I learned a lot of important and relevant things that I will use in my research and PhD-thesis.



I invited my group home for a Norwegian dinner. I really go to know my group and I am sure we will keep on touch and maybe meet up in the future.



Eating pizza with the whole class the last course day.