



International Association of Universities

Course Manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

APPLIED RESEARCH DESIGN

University College Dublin
Academic Year: 2016-2017, Semester 2



Applied Research Design

10 ECTS

Module Code: RDEV40530

Lecturers: Dr Ronan McDermott; Prof. Jim Phelan; Mr Desire Mpanje; Mr Maciej Szydowski

Contact: Dr Ronan McDermott (ronan.mcdermott@ucd.ie)

1. *Module Overview & Learning Outcomes*

The purpose of this module is to equip students with the competences (knowledge and skills) to carry out rigorous research. Global humanitarian action has evolved over the last generation from the random charitable giving to populations affected by disasters to an enterprise with a recognisable global humanitarian system that commands an ever increasing budget and employs a growing number of humanitarian professionals. This shift requires ever increasing demands on this system to be accountable for its actions to both the givers and the receivers of humanitarian aid. Over this generation the call for actions to be based on 'evidence' has steadily increased. Humanitarian professionals working at all levels, in the field, in headquarters and in policy, are now required to have varying levels of research competences. These competences may include not only the ability to conduct research projects but may also extend to the capacity to critique methodology and the making of claims on the basis of research projects.

The NOHA programme in particular is designed to produce humanitarian professionals that have the competences to contribute to improvements in the delivery of humanitarian action. We also want to provide the competences to enable this new generation of professional to document their experiences so that they can contribute to knowledge. To this end, this module addresses both academic research (to prepare students for their thesis and further) and applied research (to encourage students to apply systematic research to humanitarian action praxis).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module students should be able to:

- Independently develop a research proposal for a research project;
- Understand what is required in a literature review and to establish a study framework;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of commonly used research methods within the humanitarian sector;
- Apply methods adopting quantitative and qualitative methodologies as used within the humanitarian sector;
- Analyse and present quantitative and qualitative data;
- Apply best practice in programme/ project monitoring and evaluation.

The module has three distinct but inter-related components:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Method of Delivery</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Week beginning 6/2/2017	Planning Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">- structure of a research proposal;- background and rationale;	lectures; group work on 4/5 research areas narrowing to individual research proposal on a researchable aspect of	Individual written research proposal (1,500 words)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing research questions or objectives; - literature review; - conceptual and analytical frameworks - research principles 	the research area	
13/2/2017	Research methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methodologies, designs, methods, instruments - development of questionnaires, focus groups, interviews - sampling 	Lectures; group work on development and implementation of research methods	Group report on development and implementation of research methods (2,000)
20/2/2017	Data analysis and presentation of results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quantitative data (Use of Excel and SPSS) - qualitative data (use of Nvivo) - writing results 	Lectures; group work on data analysis and presentation	

2. *Timetable*

Week 1: Planning Research

1. Topic: Research Proposal Writing			
Date: 7 th February 2017	Venue Room 1.01, Agriculture and Food Science Building	Time: 10.00 - 13.00	Lecturer: Prof. Jim Phelan
<p><i>Expected learning outcome:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To produce a research proposal for a research project 			
<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) Social Research Methods (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 1) ○ Kumar, R. (2005) Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners, London: Sage (Chapter 4) (available on Blackboard) • Additional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) Social Research Methods (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapters 2 - 4) 			

2. Topic: Research Proposal Workshop			
Date: 8 th February 2017	Venue 1.01AG	Time: 11.00 - 13.00	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott; Desire Mpanje

3. Topic: Literature Review			
Date: 10 th February 2017	Venue 1.16AG	Time: 11.00 - 13.00	Lecturer: Prof Jim Phelan (TBC)
<i>Expected learning outcome:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To produce a literature review for a research project; • To create a related conceptual and analytical framework for a research project 			
Readings:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 5) ○ Hart, C. (1998) <i>Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination</i>, London: Sage (Chapter 1 available on Blackboard) • Additional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boote, D. and P. Beile (2005) <i>Scholars before Researchers: On the Centrality of the Dissertation Literature Review in Research Preparation</i>, <i>Educational Researcher</i>, Vol. 34, No. 6, pp. 3-15 			

4. Topic: Research Proposal Workshop (cont.)			
Date: 10 th February 2017	Venue 1.16AG	Time: 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott; Desire Mpanje

Week 2: Research Methods

5. Topic: Quantitative Research Methods I			
Date: 13 th February 2017	Venue 1.18 AG A109 ART	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott
<i>Expected learning outcome:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the relative merits and demerits of quantitative and qualitative social research methods; • To understand the advantages and disadvantages of survey research; • To construct questionnaires using established computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) tools in the humanitarian sector 			
Readings:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 7) • Optional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapters 8, 9, 10) ○ Sarantakos, S., (2013) <i>Social Research</i> (4th ed) MacMillian Press Ltd. London 			

<p>(Chapters 2 & 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Puri, J., A. Aladysheva, V. Iversen, Y. Ghorpade & T. Brück (2015) <i>What Methods May Be Used in Impact Evaluations of Humanitarian Assistance?</i>, IZA Discussion Paper No. 8755 (January 2015) ○ Gosling, L. and M. Edwards, (2003) <i>Toolkits: a practical guide to assessment, monitoring, review and evaluation</i>, Save the Children, London (Tool 2: Surveys) ○ Black, T. (1999) <i>Doing Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences: An Integrated Approach to Research Design, Measurement and Statistics</i>, London: Sage (Chapters 8 - 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audio-visual material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open Data Kit (ODK)/Kobo Collect tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTNRHV9Geqs&t=2131s
<p>Please note: In advance of the class please create an account with KoBo Toolbox: http://www.kobotoolbox.org/ Please also bring a laptop with an internet connection to class. Android users: please download KoBoCollect app from the Play Store (unfortunately KoBoCollect is only available on Android)</p>

6. Topic: Quantitative Research Methods II			
Date: 14 th February 2017	Venue 1.01AG E0.01SCE	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott
<p><i>Expected learning outcomes:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To conduct structured interviews using established computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) tools in the humanitarian sector; ● To apply appropriate sampling strategies for the use of quantitative methods in humanitarian settings 			
<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 8) ● Optional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vearey, J. (2012) 'Sampling in an Urban Environment: Overcoming Complexities and Capturing Differences', <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i>, Vol. 26 (1): 155-162 			

7. Topic: Qualitative Research Methods I			
Date: 16 th February 2017	Venue LG-20 AG 1.47 AG	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Desire Mpanje
<p><i>Expected learning outcomes:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To formulate a qualitative research question; ● To design a qualitative study; ● To generate relevant qualitative data; ● To observe appropriate ethical guidelines 			
<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advance Reading: 			

- Bryman, A. (2015). *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: OUP (Chapter 3)
- Optional Reading:
 - Flick, U. (2006) *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, Chapter 6. London: Sage. 'Theoretical Positions Underlying Qualitative Research'
 - <https://anujacabraal.wordpress.com/2013/04/04/the-importance-of-the-research-question/>

8. Topic: Qualitative Research Methods II			
Date: 17 th February 2017	Venue 1.16 AG	Time: 11.00 - 13.00	Lecturer: Desire Mpanje
<p><i>Expected learning outcomes:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To use the relevant methodological literature; critically appraise fieldwork. ● To design and carry out qualitative evaluations of humanitarian action ● To design and carry out participatory monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian action 			
<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 17) ○ Estrella, M., and Gaventa, J., (1998) Who Counts Reality? Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation: Literature Review IDS Working Paper No. 70 ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_554130&feature=iv&src_vid=FGH2tYuXf0s&v=9t-hYjAKww ○ https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/teaching-resources/interview ● Optional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kvale, S., and Brinkmann, S. (2009) <i>Interviews: Learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing</i>. Sage, Chapter 9 Interview Quality 			

9. Topic: Research Ethics			
Date: 17 th February 2017	Venue 1.16 AG	Time: 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Maciej Szydowski
<p><i>Expected learning outcome:</i> At the end of this seminar students should be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To understand the ethical principles pertaining to research projects involving vulnerable participants. 			
<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bryman, A. (2015) <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 6) ● Optional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schopper D, Upshur R, Matthys F, Singh JA, Bandewar SS, et al. (2009) 'Research Ethics Review in Humanitarian Contexts: The Experience of the Independent Ethics Review Board of Médecins Sans Frontières' <i>PLoS Med</i> 6(7): e1000115. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000115 ○ Van Bavel, B., Gilmore, B., and Wilkinson, O. (2016) <i>Student Guidelines for Ethical Fieldwork Overseas</i>. Dublin, Ireland (http://globalhealth.ie/student-ethical-guidelines/) 			

Week 3: Data Analysis and Presentation

10. Topic: Quantitative Data Analysis and Presentation I

Date: 20 th February 2017	Venue G-30PCLab (11.00 - 12.50) G6 DAE (14.00 - 15.50)	Time: 11.00 - 12.50 14.00 - 15.50	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott
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Expected learning outcome:

At the end of this and the following seminar students should be able to:

- understand observations and variables in research data;
- know the attributes of variables that determine how data may be summarised and analysed;
- know how to create a simple database in SPSS, and how to enter, edit and save data;
- know how to manipulate data and create new variables using procedures available in SPSS;
- know how to present descriptive statistics on all variable types;
- know how to represent research data graphically using SPSS;
- know how to use selected statistical procedures in SPSS;
- be able to present selected data in report form.

Readings:

- Advance Reading:
 - Bryman, A. (2015) *Social Research Methods* (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK (Chapter 15)
 - Sarantakos, S., (2013) *Social Research* (4th ed) MacMillian Press Ltd. London.
- Optional Reading:
 - Black, T. (1999) *Doing Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences: An Integrated Approach to Research Design, Measurement and Statistics*, London: Sage (Chapters 12 - 14)

11. Topic: Quantitative Data Analysis and Presentation II

Date: 21 st February 2017	Venue G6DAE G-30PCLab	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 16.00	Lecturer: Dr Ronan McDermott
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Expected learning outcomes and readings: see **Quantitative Data Analysis and Presentation I**

12. Topic: Qualitative Data Analysis and Presentation I

Date: 23 rd February 2017	Venue LG-20 AG G-07 AG	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 17.00	Lecturer: Desire Mpanje
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Expected learning outcome:

At the end of this seminar students should be able to:

- analyse qualitative data (interview transcripts, focus group material, and other texts)

Readings:

- **Advance Reading:**
 - Spencer, Liz *et al* (2004) *Quality in Qualitative Evaluation: A framework for Assessing Researched Evidence*. London: Government Chief Social Researcher's Office. Chapter 5.
 - Chenail, R. J. (1995). Presenting qualitative data. *The qualitative report*, 2(3), 1-9.
 - http://onlineqda.hud.ac.uk/Intro_QDA/how_what_to_code.php
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRL4PF2u9XA>
- **Optional Reading:**

- Bazeley, Pat (2013) *Qualitative Data Analysis: Practical Strategies*. London: Sage

13. Topic: **Qualitative Data Analysis and Presentation II**

Date: 24 th February 2017	Venue D114 HEA G5 DAE	Time: 11.00 - 13.00 14.00 - 17.00	Lecturer: Desire Mpanje
<i>Expected learning outcome:</i> At the end of this seminar students will be able to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set up, identify codes and themes, and to analyse and write up a qualitative research project using a software programme for qualitative data analysis 			
Readings:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NVivo Toolkit available on the NOHA Blackboard • Optional Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bazeley, Pat and Kristi Jackson (2013) <i>Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo</i>. London: Sage 			

Recommended textbooks:

- Bryman, A. (2015) *Social Research Methods* (5th ed) Oxford University Press, UK.
- Gosling, L. and M. Edwards, (2003) *Toolkits: a practical guide to assessment, monitoring, review and evaluation*, Save the Children, London
- Sarantakos, S., (2013) *Social Research* (4th ed) MacMillian Press Ltd. London.

3. Module Delivery

The module will employ a combination of lectures and problem-based learning to achieve the learning outcomes outlined. Students are expected to attend each lecture/seminar having read the advance reading assigned. This will enable students to work collaboratively to address the questions posed by case studies provided in class. Students are expected to subsequently present their findings to further in-class discussion.

4. Assessment

The module will be assessed by assignment and written exam:

- Assignment 1 – Research Proposal – 33%
 - Assignment will be distributed during research proposal workshop in Week 1
 - Submission via Blackboard
 - Deadline: 11am, Monday 20th February 2017
- Assignment 2 – Research Methods Development – 33%
 - Assignment will be distributed in Week 3
 - Submission via Blackboard
 - Deadline: 5pm, Friday 3rd March 2017
- Examination – 34%
 - 2-hour exam
 - 10th March, 2-4pm