

## Lecture 1 – January 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

### Intro to the course

Qualitative research involves working with *qualitative data*: Interviews, documents, participant observation data, to *understand and explain social phenomena*.

The course will take you through the following issues and topics:

- \* Qualitative versus quantitative research methods (the course is about qualitative research)
- \* Different philosophical assumptions, often labeled: positivist, interpretivist and critical research paradigms (we will mainly use texts from the interpretivist tradition)
- \* Different types of qualitative research: case study, ethnography, action research, grounded theory
- \* Methods for data collection: Interviews, observations (passive, participant), audio recording, video recording, documents
- \* Analysis; how to structure written work; the position of the researcher
- \* Internet research
- \* Legal aspects of research in Norway

You'll learn about different types of research (as sketched above),

- \* how to do it yourself (assignments are central for learning), and how to analyze and write up your findings.
- \* The course has one course book (Crang and Cook (2007)).
- \* In addition we will work with a number of articles, both discussing methodological issues and as exemplars of these different types of studies.
- \* See course page for literature (syllabus) + detailed teaching plan for readings and assignments.

## **Having passed INF5220**

- \* You know about different qualitative methodologies and methods that are used within the IS field when generating empirical material
- \* You are able to use this knowledge in practice (experiences with interviews and observation)
- \* You can argue for your methodological choices
- \* You have an understanding about the relationship between research questions, methodologies and paradigms
- \* You have learned what a research design proposal should contain and have practical experience with formulating one
- \* You know about the legal and ethical framework for the conduct of research in Norway

## **Group work:**

\* Ideally 4 members in each group. Discussions in groups, oral presentation in class, written assignments  
– must be accepted in order to take the exam.

\* You'll receive feedback on your assignments by TA (teacher assistant) Hanne Cecilie. It's not mandatory to receive feedback, but it is a great opportunity to learn and discuss. Hanne Cecilie will send out invitations through doodle.

## **Exam information:**

- \* Graded marks A-F (master students)
- \* Passed/non passed on B+A level (PhD students)
- \* The grades will be based on oral exam in week **24 or 25**.

## **PhD-students**

The PhD-students are required to read from the additional list. In May we'll have a mini-seminar which must be accepted in order to attend the exam.

## **Guest lectures:**

Among others: Gisle on internet research, ethics and privacy