

## **Qualitative Data Analysis (with Quantitative Options)**

Professor Morwenna Griffiths

### **Aims**

This course has four main aims:

- To explore the nature of qualitative data and the assumptions about social reality which underpin interpretative approaches;
- To examine the strengths and weaknesses of the main approaches to data gathering in the qualitative tradition;
- To explore approaches to data handling and analysis;
- To consider the kinds of research claims that interpretative approaches can make.

### **Course Structure**

The course will take place over four days, two days in the spring term and two days in the summer term. The first two days will focus on the nature of qualitative data and on techniques for data gathering. The second two days will focus on data handling and analysis and on the kinds of claims that can be made from this kind of research.

### **Teaching and Learning Approaches**

A variety of approaches will be used. These include group discussion, practical activity, formal presentations and role play. There will be an emphasis on moving from the particular to the general through the study of specific examples and/or of participants' own experiences in data collection and analysis.

### **General Reading on Research Methods**

There is a large literature on research methods in education and a number of academic journals either devoted specifically to methodology or to reporting empirical studies. You should familiarise yourself with these so that you can place your research design and methods within a broader context of research in the social sciences. The following key texts are extremely useful. Most of them were indicated in reading list for bloc one.

### **Reading List**

Bechofer, F and Paterson, L (2000) *Principles of Research Design in the Social Sciences* London: Routledge.

Halpin, D and Troyna, B (eds) (1994) *Researching Education Policy: Ethical and Methodological Issues* London: Falmer.

Ozga, J (2000) *Policy Research in Educational Settings: Contested Terrain* Buckingham: Open University Press.

Walford, G (ed) (1998) *Doing Research about Education* London: Falmer.

### **Core Texts You Should Buy For This Course**

Silverman, D (2000) *Doing Qualitative Research: A practical handbook* London: Sage

Pring, R (2000) *Philosophy of Educational Research* London: Continuum.