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| Course title/Course Neptun ID: Qualitative research methods / GAZDT512N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Credit value: 6 |
| Professor in charge (name, position, academic degree): Prof. Dr. habil. Anikó Khademi-Vidra, Full Professor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |
| Professor(s) involved in teaching, if any (name, position, academic degree): -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |
| Course category: compulsory / <b>elective</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                 |
| Course type: lecture/seminar/practical course/ <b>consultation</b> , and total number of course sessions in the given semester: 21 course sessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |
| <p>Methods, (<i>specific</i>) tools, and characteristics applied to convey knowledge:</p> <p>Knowledge is conveyed through several methodological approaches during the course. At the beginning of the course, the general characteristics of qualitative methods are outlined in the form of an interactive lecture. Subsequently, the methodology of interview analysis is addressed through guided discussion during consultations. The entire knowledge-transfer process is interwoven with demonstrations based on practical examples. The course is built on active student participation, primarily to enable doctoral students to prepare more effectively the interview analyses related to their own research topics that will be submitted for assessment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |
| Method of assessing knowledge (exam / practical course grade / <b>other</b> ): written assignment (interview analyses)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |
| Grading method(s) applied for assessing knowledge: The presence of the analytical steps presented during the course and their creative application in the submitted interview analyses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |
| The course's placement in the curriculum (in which semester the course is taken): Depends on the semester in which the course is offered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |
| Compulsory studies prior to the course (if any): -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |
| <p>Course description: a brief yet informative description of the course's objectives and the material to be covered</p> <p>Qualitative methods are the soft methodological tools of scientific "deep drilling". The primary aim of the course is to enable doctoral students, drawing on their own analytical, synthesising perspective and creative writing skills, to conduct qualitative analyses both in their doctoral research and in their publications. Accordingly, the course focuses primarily on interviews, while, where possible, it also addresses the characteristics of focus group interviews and content analysis. The course covers topics suitable for qualitative research, the substantive and formal criteria of recording interviews (e.g. the logic of questioning, questioning techniques, interview methodology, etc.), as well as the evaluation and analysis of texts. In addition to researchers' individual approaches to structuring the data obtained, the course also provides an opportunity for a partial</p> |                 |

introduction to the possibilities offered by CAQDAS (data organisation, coding, etc.) and to become familiar with alternatives provided by AI.

Course topics/semester syllabus:

- Introduction to the characteristics of qualitative methods
- Coding
- Organisation of categories and themes
- Identifying relationships
- Writing up the analysis

A list of the 2-5 most relevant compulsory literature (notes, textbooks) with bibliographic information (author, title, publication details, page numbers, ISBN):

- Babbie, E. R. (2021). The Practice of Social Research (15th ed.). Cengage. ISBN 9780357360767.
- Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2006) Using thematic analysis in psychology. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3(2), 77–101.
- Giesen, L. & Roeser, A. (2020). Structuring a Team-Based Approach to Coding Qualitative Data. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 19, 1–7.
- Xu, W. & Zammit, K. (2020). Applying Thematic Analysis to Education: A Hybrid Approach to Interpreting Data in Practitioner Research. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 19.

A list of the 2-5 most relevant recommended literature (notes, textbooks) with bibliographic information (author, title, publication details, page numbers, ISBN):

- Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2021) One Size Fits All? What Counts as Quality Practice in (Reflexive) Thematic Analysis. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 18(3), 328–352.
- Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2021) Can I use TA? Should I use TA? Should I not use TA? Comparing reflexive thematic analysis and other pattern-based qualitative analytic approaches. Counselling and Psychotherapy Research, 21(1), 37–47.
- Byrne, D. (2022) A worked example of Braun and Clarke's approach to reflexive thematic analysis. Quality & Quantity, 56(3), 1391–1412.
- Nowell, L.S., Norris, J.M., White, D.E. & Moules, N.J. (2017) Thematic Analysis: Striving to Meet the Trustworthiness Criteria. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 16, 1–13.

Professional competencies, elements of competence, and skills to which the course typically and substantially contributes (knowledge, ability, attitude, autonomy, and responsibility):

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of qualitative research methodology
- Knowledge of the theory of conducting and analysing interviews
- Knowledge of the selected analytical method (e.g. thematic analysis, qualitative content analysis, including the use of NVivo)
- Knowledge of research ethics principles and data protection
- Knowledge of the literature of the scientific field under study

Ability:

- Systematic coding and categorisation of interviews
- Identification of patterns, themes, and relationships
- Critical interpretation of results and comparison with the literature
- Writing a logical and coherent analysis to scientific standards

Attitude:

- Openness to participants' perspectives
- Commitment to objectivity and reflexivity
- Critical, analytical, synthesising, and systems thinking
- Precision, thoroughness, and ethical research conduct

Autonomy and responsibility:

- Independent planning and implementation of the analytical process
- Taking responsibility for the soundness of coding and interpretation
- Ensuring compliance with research ethics rules and the protection of confidential data
- Ensuring the credibility and transparency of results
- Justifying and documenting analytical decisions