



Qualitative Multi-Method Research Initiative (QUAL)

WHAT IS QUAL?

QUAL is a UW-wide initiative launched in response to pressing demand for qualitative research design and methods training in the social sciences.

QUAL's goal is to promote and systematize training in qualitative research methods and to build a community of qualitative multi-method researchers in and around UW.

QUAL aims to specifically advance the skill sets related to qualitative multi-methods that are useful for graduate students across all social science departments and the broader UW.

QUAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Saadia Pekkanen, International Studies; Law
Morhaf Al Achkar, School of Medicine
Daniel Bessner, International Studies; History
Kirsten Foot, Communication
James Long, Political Science
Steve Pfaff, Sociology
James Pfeiffer, Global Health; Anthropology
Michael Townsend, Law

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<https://jsis.uw.edu/programs/qual>

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QUAL Coordinator: Gail Schmitz | gschmitz@uw.edu

WHAT QUAL OFFERS

BUILDS a community of social science graduate students, faculty, and experts in applied qualitative research from the university and beyond. QUAL connects these stakeholders through a Speaker Series aimed at engaging qualitative multi-method researchers and practitioners in conversation.

TRAINS social science graduate students through UW qualitative-related courses and in qualitative software uses through Qualitative Data Analysis Training Workshops. These free hands-on workshops are designed to teach the basics of QDA software.

ADVANCES the qualitative multi-method research skills of graduate students interested in completing the QUAL concentration.

QUAL CONCENTRATION

The QUAL concentration is an optional track for UW graduate and professional students. It involves:

1. Completing one of the QDA workshops
2. Taking a minimum of three advanced courses at the 500-level in relevant research design/methods
3. Attending a minimum of five Speaker Series talks

To apply, visit: <https://jsis.uw.edu/programs/qual/study-qual>

Or email: Rebecca Alhadeff at ralhadeff@uw.edu

2019-2020 QUAL SPEAKER SERIES

TASHA FAIRFIELD | BAYESIAN GUIDELINES FOR CASE SELECTION: AN INFORMATION-THEORETIC APPROACH

October 31, 2019 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Tasha Fairfield, Associate Professor in Development Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, analyzes the political economy of inequality, the politics of policy formulation, and business-state relations in Latin America. Her methodological research examines the Bayesian logic of inference in qualitative social science. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/international-development/people/tasha-fairfield>

STEPHEN M. WALT | WHY I USE QUALITATIVE METHODS

December 4, 2019 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Stephen M. Walt is the Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. He has been a Resident Associate of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace and a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution, and he has also served as a consultant for the Institute of Defense Analyses, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the National Defense University. <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty/stephen-walt>. He will be discussing his recent article, "Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing is Bad for International Relations." <https://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/Leaving%20Theory%20Behind%20EJIR.pdf>

MARIO L. BARNES | CRITICAL RACE NARRATIVES, QUALITATIVE METHODS AND MEANING-MAKING IN LEGAL RESEARCH

January 22, 2020 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Mario L. Barnes is the Toni Rembe Dean of the University of Washington School of Law and a nationally recognized scholar for his research on the legal and social implications of race and gender, primarily in the areas of employment, education, criminal and military law. <https://www.law.uw.edu/directory/faculty/barnes-mario-l>

MARGARET O'MARA | WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE PRESENT: QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY IN *THE CODE*

March 11, 2020 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Margaret O'Mara is the Howard & Frances Keller Professor of History at the University of Washington. O'Mara will discuss why she considers qualitative analysis to be critically important in documenting the history and study of business and of technology. www.margaretomara.com

MORHAF AL ACHKAR | QUALITATIVE STUDY OF MAKING MEANING AND COPING WITH INCURABLE CANCER

April 15, 2020 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Morhaf Al Achkar, MD, Ph.D. was born in Aleppo-Syria and migrated to the United States after finishing medical school. He obtained a Ph.D. in Research Inquiry Methodology in Social Sciences from Indiana University School of Education. Currently, he is a practicing family physician and a faculty member at the University of Washington. In 2016, Morhaf was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Since then, his research has focused on the experience of patients living with lung cancer. <https://www.uwmedicine.org/bios/morhaf-al-achkar>

ALEXIS HARRIS | A MULTI-STATE STUDY USING MULTI-METHODS: MAKING SENSE OF JUSTICE SENTENCING

May 27, 2020 | 12:30-1:20 p.m. | THO 317

Alexis Harris is the University of Washington Presidential Term Professor in the Sociology Department. Her research will outline a five-year study examining court sentencing of monetary sanctions including over 900 interviews and surveys, 1,600 hours of court observations, and individual court automated data.

<https://soc.washington.edu/people/alexis-harris>

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