



EIMAS
EUROPEAN INTERDISCIPLINARY
MASTER AFRICAN STUDIES



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
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EIMAS Guest Scholar Event
EIMAS Spring School on Qualitative Methods

Dr Alžběta Šváblová & Dr Joh Sarre

19th to 23rd April 2022
Room S 55, Building RW, Campus Uni Bayreuth

The *EIMAS Spring School on Qualitative Methods* will provide the EIMAS students with a theoretical foundation of qualitative methodology and allow them to make informed decision about research design and methods of their own research projects. At the same time, participants will have opportunities to apply the theoretical input in practice.

The five days of activities will be divided into focus sessions (four sessions a day).

Session 1: 09:00 am – 10:30 am

Session 2: 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Session 3: 01:45 pm – 03:15 pm

Session 4: 03:30 pm – 05:00 pm

Didactically, the spring school will combine input by the instructors, group work, individual work and reflection, as well as practical parts. Teaching methods will put emphasis on active participation and consider the diversity of the students to create a space for constructive, critical and respectful discussion that facilitates effective learning.



Tuesday, 19th April – Getting started

- Welcome and Introduction
- Introduction to qualitative research methods & research design
- Doing ethnography & managing your research as a project
- Practical exercises; Research as a relational encounter

Wednesday, 20th April – Data collection techniques

- Defining and refining a research topic & finding suitable research design and methods
- Qualitative methods of data collection (2 Sessions)
- Positionality of the researcher, ethical aspects; reflexivity and self-care in the research process

Thursday, 21st April – Getting to work

- Preparing practical mini-research
- Developing interview questions
- Feedback on mini-research proposals
- Conducting mini-research at selected field sites in Bayreuth (*NB: programme may run until 6:30 pm*)

Friday, 22nd April – Dealing with data

- Techniques and methods of data analysis
- Analysis of data collected
- Preparation of presentations
- Reflection & feedback

Saturday, 23rd April – Presenting your research

- Presentation of results & lessons learnt
- Writing up: tips for writing up a methodology section
- Closing discussion & feedback



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About the Scholars:



Dr Alžběta Šváblová is a post-doc at the University of Bayreuth, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Chair of African Sociology.

Alžběta says about this course: “During my PhD (BIGSAS, University of Bayreuth), I gained sound experience with qualitative research methods, both theoretically and also practically, conducting my research project in a highly sensitive context of a post-conflict country. In addition to that, I bring my didactic skills, acquired and applied in various cultural contexts. In 2012, I offered seminars on research design and methodology at the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation at the University of Liberia in Monrovia. Since 2017, I taught BA and MA courses at the University of Bayreuth (for German and international students), and in 2019, I co-taught a week-long research methodology course at the summer school at the University of Sousse, Tunisia. Last but not least, I see a specific added value in co-teaching the EIMAS Spring School with Joh Sarre. Our fields

of expertise complement each other, and Joh’s profound knowledge of ethnographic methods combined with my focus on methods used in sociology and political science will be of a particular advantage for the participants.”

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Dr Joh Sarre is trained in anthropology & development sociology and works as freelance Coach, Trainer, Lecturer & Researcher.

Joh says about this course: “Over the 16 years of my career as an (academic) researcher, I gained extensive experience in practically applying a broad range of methods, ranging from more open-radar ethnographic research (B.A., M.A. and PhD theses based on own research in Tanzania, Nepal and Kenya) to more structured formats (large-*n* KAPB-survey for German development cooperation in Tanzania, comparative research project in international relations in Kenya/Uganda etc.). In my writings, I have reflected on the theoretical aspects of these different methods. Additionally, I have always held a keen interest in research ethics and methodological questions arising from ethical considerations, documented e.g. by organizing a workshop on research ethics at VAD-young scholars’-conference in 2014. My experience in teaching courses for

both academics and practitioners is a benefit when sharing my methodological knowledge and experience with students in ways that are both efficient and accessible. I particularly look forward to teaching this course jointly with my esteemed colleague Dr. Alžběta Šváblová, whom I have known for several years. I am hopeful that students will profit greatly from the broad range of methodological knowledge and experience in research and teaching which we offer.”

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