

QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY AND GENERALIZATION FROM SINGLE CASES

Organizers: Jaan Valsiner, Isabelle Albert & Dieter Ferring

When: Wednesday, February 24, 14.00-18.00

Where: Campus Belval, MSA 4.520

Goals. This occasional seminar brings together researchers and advanced students interested in qualitative methodology from different disciplines. The seminar will take up ideas on the future of qualitative research, and will discuss specific questions such as generalization as well as dialogical and interactional perspectives.

Invited Speakers

Modalities of generalization through single case studies

Tania Zittoun, Université de Neuchâtel, CH

There are different scales and sizes of single case studies: individual vignettes, longitudinal lifecourse data, analysis of institution or of a region, for instance. Although the heart of the dynamic of generalization is the same, the modalities vary. I'll take examples in which generalization is primarily done through dialogue between cases, dialogue with theory, interdisciplinary dialogue, or dialogue with different sources of data. I'll then reflect on the implications for research and theory building.



How double-dialogicality may allow us to generalize from single cases

Carolin Demuth, Aalborg University, DK

There is currently a renewed interest amongst scholars to understand human psychological functioning as dialogically intertwined with language, interaction, and the world. From such a viewpoint, not the individual becomes the focus of research but the interaction. Any interaction is, however, situated, contextual, and hence unique – never reoccurring in exactly the same way. At the same time, social interactions always build on prior interactions with others and cultural traditions of meaning making. I would like to share my ideas on which qualitative procedures deem suitable to study psychological phenomena from such a dialogical/interactional perspective and whether it is possible then to generalize from a single case.



Qualitative Research applied: Results of the Luxembourg Youth Report

Helmut Willems & Daniel Weis, Université du Luxembourg, LU

The method of empirically based construction of types and typologies will be demonstrated using the example of a qualitative study from the Luxembourg Youth Report 2015. This reveals two key challenges of qualitative research, namely (1) data resulting from single cases must be aggregated and condensed before being summarized into types, and (2) questions regarding possible generalization and transferability of the results need to be addressed. How, and under which conditions, this process can be put into practice will be illustrated using a typology of young people's transitions from youth into adulthood developed within the Luxembourg Youth Report 2015.



This seminar is organized as a collaboration of the Universities of Aalborg and Luxembourg within the framework of the project IRMA – Intergenerational Relations in the Light of Migration and Ageing at the Research Unit INSIDE. For further information please contact Isabelle.Albert@uni.lu