

## **Quantitative Research Methods for Social Work and Social Sciences (6 ECTS)**

### **Teaching periods**

8 days to be determined, distributed during Spring semester 2024 and partly in Fall semester 2024 in 1 or 2 day(s) seminars.

### **Venue**

University of Neuchâtel, room(s) to be announced.

### **Teaching team**

To be announced.

### **Content of the seminar**

This course is an introductory doctoral seminar for students interested in learning about quantitative research methods. Quantitative research methods provide strategies and tools for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting social phenomena in numbers. Quantitative research questions the prevalence of a social construct, or individual and social behaviors, and surveys and measures the factors that correlate with, influence, or cause social phenomena. The purpose of quantitative research methods is to improve knowledge and understanding of the social world and allows information about a sample population to be generalized to a larger population.

Throughout the course, examples of research articles published in peer-reviewed social work journals in line with the interests of the participants will be examined and discussed, relying on pieces of research with research methods and techniques (Excel, Quiz, R, SPSS, Zoho) learned in the seminar.

### **Form of evaluation**

Internal evaluation. Students will be assessed on their ability to read, analyze and interpret the content of one scientific paper applying a quantitative research method and published in a peer-reviewed journal. Students must complete a pre-organized form accurately describing the research design, the main objectives, the hypotheses, the variables used to measure the primary concepts, the data employed, and the analysis technique.

### **Learning goals**

- Understand and recognize the goals, strengths, and limitations of different quantitative research designs
- Learn how to test social theories empirically through operationalization processes
- Familiarize with the procedure of collecting, processing and analyzing numerical data using surveys and sampling techniques
- Explain validity and reliability as they relate to quantitative research
- Outline the basic principles of data analysis

### **Transferable skills**

- Critically evaluate research methodology
- Adopt proper technical language when reading, analyzing, and presenting quantitative research.
- Acquire basic skills to analyze social phenomena in their complexity from a macro perspective.

### **Pre-condition and registration**

Registration as a PhD student at a Swiss university or pedagogical contract as a future PhD student of the ITTS. Express interest at [messagerie.itts@unine.ch](mailto:messagerie.itts@unine.ch).

### **Documentation & literature**

All the documentation will be available on Moodle.

