The objective of this course is to discover, examine and discuss the theories of science at the ground of human geography and the qualitative methods used to carry out human geographical research.

The course is divided in three progressive units:

1. We will start by exploring the theories of science that have shaped geographical investigation.
2. We will examine the epistemological and ethical basis of geographical research, focusing on the principles of validity and reliability. Following, we will survey several methods starting from the most common ones e.g. interviews, observation, focus groups going to the participatory, mixed and discursive methods that are becoming increasingly important in our discipline.
3. We will conclude with a focus on data analysis techniques e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, member checking.

Expected learning outcomes:

1. Develop and practice skills to read, evaluate, and communicate both orally and in written form current scholarship in human geography;
2. Learn about and practice qualitative research methods in geography;
3. Relate epistemological and ontological principles of qualitative research methodologies;
4. Critically assess different research methodologies;
5. Develop skills to conduct qualitative research in geography;
6. Network, build a sense of community, in the class and beyond