

Qualitative and mixed methods analysis of life course issues

Doctoral Programme LIVES – June 4-5, 2026

University of Geneva

Pinchat, 010

Objective: In this module, students will acquire the theoretical foundations for qualitative and mixed-methods analysis with a life course approach. The module is structured in two days. The first day will focus on qualitative methods, the second day will be dedicated to mixed methods. The days are organized in (1) presentations of theoretical and methodological concepts, approaches, and tools, and of research results, (2) discussions of articles, to be read before, and (3) exercises that allow PhD students to mobilize their own experiences and work and engage with the input in this module.

June 4, 2026

9h15 – 10h45: Introduction to qualitative methodology: research designs, data collection – Claudine Burton-Jeangros (UNIGE)

10h45 – 11h15: Coffee break

11h15 – 12h45: Introduction to qualitative methodology: analyzing qualitative data – Claudine Burton-Jeangros (UNIGE)

12h45 – 14h00: Lunch

14h00 – 15h30: Qualitative methodology in life course research: the importance of time - Claudine Burton-Jeangros (UNIGE) including article discussion Lewis, J. (2007). Analysing Qualitative Longitudinal Research in Evaluations. *Social Policy and Society*, 6(4), 545-556. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746407003880>

This article describes the processes and objectives of qualitative longitudinal analysis in evaluation research, using a recent evaluation study – the evaluation of the Job Retention and Rehabilitation Pilot – as an example. It describes evaluation research as involving an interplay between four domains of change: individual, service, policy and structural, which makes longitudinal qualitative research a particularly rich data source. It outlines different types of change that may be evident: narrative change, reinterpretation by either participant or researcher, and the absence of change. The article describes how the Framework analysis method was used to analyse longitudinal qualitative research. It examines how the data can be read in different ways to combine cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis, and theme, case and group analysis, and discusses the kind of questions that can be asked of change in longitudinal qualitative evaluation studies.

15h30 – 16h00: Coffee break

16h00 – 17h00: *Exercise about designing qualitative research integrating analyses of time.*

June 5, 2026

9h15 – 10h45: Mixed-methods – Oana Ciobanu (HETSL, HES-SO)

10h45 – 11h15: Coffee break

11h15 – 12h30: Article discussion

Le Roux, G., Studer, M., Bringé, A., & Bonvalet, C. (2023). Selecting qualitative cases using sequence analysis: A mixed-method for in-depth understanding of life course trajectories. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 56: 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alcr.2023.100530>

In this paper, we propose a sequence analysis-based method for selecting qualitative cases depending on quantitative results. Inspired by tools developed for cross-sectional analyses, we propose indicators suitable for longitudinal study of the life course in a holistic perspective and a set of corresponding analysis guidelines. Two complementary indicators are introduced, marginality and gain, that allows labeling observations according to both their typicality within their group and their illustrativeness of a given quantitative relationship. These indicators allow selecting a diversity of cases depending on their contributions to a quantitative relationship between trajectories and a covariate or a typology. The computation of the indicators is made available in the TraMineRextras R package. The method and its advantages are illustrated through an original study of the relationships between residential trajectories in the Paris region and residential socialization during childhood. Using the Biographies et Entourage [Event history and entourage] survey and qualitative interviews conducted with a subsample of respondents, the analysis shows the contributions of the method not only to improve the understanding of statistical associations, but also to identify their limitations. Extension and generalization of the method are finally proposed to cover a wider scope of situations.

Keywords: Mixed methods; Sequential explanatory design; Sequence analysis; Case selection; Residential trajectories

12h30 – 14h00: Lunch

14h00 – 15h30: Exercises: working with and applying the mixed-methods approach.