Amsterdam Business Research Institute

Process Research Methods

Course Manual

Academic Year 2015 - 2016
Target groups
The course Process Research Methods 2015-2016 is open to PhD candidates, ABRI Junior Researchers, and honours master students. This is an advanced course that assumes prior knowledge on qualitative research methods (e.g. the ABRI course Qualitative Research Methods). The course workload represents 3 ECTS.

Course Content
Most of the phenomena investigated by management and organization scholars evolve over time. This includes processes at various levels, such as team development, innovation, organizational change, interorganizational collaboration, and institutionalization. Process research methods have been developed to capture the dynamics of how such phenomena unfold over time, without reducing them to dependent or independent variables. This course provides an introduction to these process research methods. It provides the philosophical and theoretical background to process thinking, methods for collecting process data, and qualitative and quantitative methods for analyzing process data.

Learning Objectives
After finishing this course, participants have developed their:

- Understanding of process theorizing and different approaches to process research in management and organization studies
- Ability to make and justify choices in the design of process research
- Ability to apply qualitative and quantitative methods of process analysis.

Course Design
The course is organized around three full day sessions in May 2015 and individual assignments. Each session is dedicated to one aspect of process research methods, and will consist of two parts: an interactive morning part in which the topic is introduced and an afternoon part in which participants work on and discuss an assignment. Participants are expected to come well prepared to these sessions.

In the assignments, the participants apply process research methods to their own research projects (if possible). An assignment has to be made in advance of each session and these three assignments have to be combined into a final assignment. All participants are expected to complete this assignment individually. Assignments and evaluation criteria for grading will be explained separately.
**Workload and credits**
The estimated time participants spend on study activities is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attending Lectures and Interactive Assignment Sessions</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying Literature</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing the Individual Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>84</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>84 hours (3 ECTS)</strong></td>
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</table>

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Morning session</th>
<th>Afternoon session</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May, 11</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Process theorizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May, 18</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Designing process research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May, 25</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:30-12:30</td>
<td>13:30-16:30</td>
<td>Hans Berends</td>
<td>Analyzing process data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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**Session overview**

**Session 1: Process theorizing**

**Content**
- process philosophy
- process theorizing in organization and management research
- introduction to process research methods
- process oriented research questions

**Session 2: Designing process research**

**Content**
- issues in the design of process research
- alternative strategies for doing process research
Session 3: Analyzing process data

Content

• qualitative analysis of process data
• some quantitative methods for analysing process data (including gamma analysis, optimal matching)
• writing up process studies

Grading

Attendance and active participation in the sessions is mandatory to pass this course. The requested readings mentioned above are assumed to have been read prior to class.

Participants receive two grades: one grade for the assignments associated with the three sessions and class participation (40%) and one grade for the final individual assignment (60%). The final score is the weighted average of these two grades. PhD candidates receive a pass/fail mark on the basis of their assignments. All participants receive 3 ECTS after successful completion of the course.