

Course Outline *Triangulation of Qualitative and Quantitative Research*

The workshop aims to introduce students to the dynamic development of social science approaches to the inter-relation and integration of qualitative and quantitative research. Tracing the movement from the classic formulations of triangulation for convergent validation to the contemporary approach of triangulation for analytic density, the workshop will feature a range of research examples and extended exemplars of triangulation in practice. It will also feature the role of information technologies in supporting and facilitating mixed methods research.

The principal topics that will be covered include:

- Principles and classic formulations: research design for triangulation and mixed methods
- Critical problems in convergent validation
- The move from convergent validation to analytic density: postmodernism and mixed methods
- Practices and exemplars: software support for mixed method research designs
- The “McDonaldization” of mixed methods: standardization and orthodoxy versus flexibility and discovery
- The contemporary mixed methods research scene

Day 2 of the workshop will involve practical exercises and briefings on personal experience of mixed methods research projects, including at least one example from doctoral research supervised by the workshop presenter. There will be full opportunities for workshop participants to present their own projects and for interactive feedback on specific methodological challenges and issues arising from these projects.

Workshop presenter: Nigel Fielding, Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey, UK