

WHAT IS A CASE?

In this session, we will discuss with you what is commonly thought of as “case-studies” and the various approaches to cases that we find in the literature. Based on discussions of literature about case-studies, as well as some examples of case study research, we will set the basis for a more advanced understanding of qualitative work.

To make the case study discussion as relevant as possible, we ask you to find a research article within your own field and bring it to the seminar on October 14. The research article should contain a case study, and we will ask you to present the answers to the following questions at the seminar:

1. Where (and when) was the article published?
2. What is the case about? (One or several cases?)
3. What are the ontological and epistemological underpinnings of the case?
4. What is the focal unit of analysis in the case?
5. How does the author handle time, space, and perspective/voice in the case?
6. What kind of material(s) is the case based on?

Read:

- Eisenhardt, Kathleen M. 1989, "Building theories from case study research. "Academy of management review 14(4): 532-550.
- Flyvbjerg, B., 2006, "Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research", Qualitative Inquiry 12(2): 219-245.
- Ragin, C. 1992, "Casing and the process of social inquiry" in Ragin, C. & Becker, H. What is a case?, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 217-227. HANDOUT
- Siggelkow, N, 2007, "Persuasion with case studies", Academy of Management Journal, 50(1): 20–24.