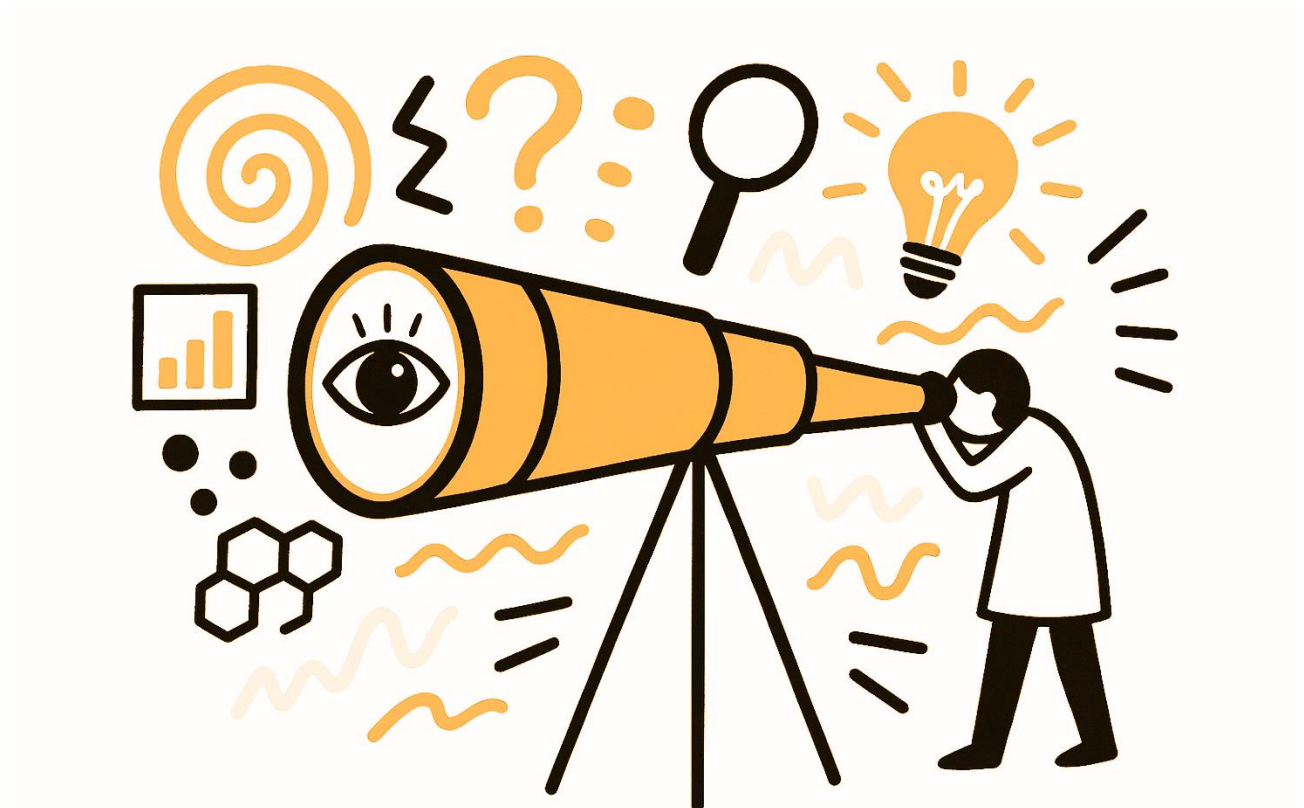


Qual+ Newsletter

Issue 7: September 2025



<i>Event Spotlights</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Upcoming Qual+ Events.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Recent Qualitative Papers</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Recent Methods Papers.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Open Calls for Papers.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Training sessions by Aalto's Data Agents</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>The Qual+ team has grown!.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Keep in touch through our new email address.....</i>	<i>15</i>

Dear friends of Qual+,

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Qual+ Newsletter!

The fall term at Aalto University is in full speed and we have already had a few well-attended events - and there are many more to come!

In this newsletter, we first take a look back at the workshop delivered by Dr. Juho Suokas (University of Eastern Finland) and Professor Kaisa Koskinen (Tampere University) on cross-language research and the seminar given by Professor Janne Tienari (Hanken School of Economics) on writing against AI. We have also included a coverage on the 11th edition of the Capri Summer School on qualitative research methods.

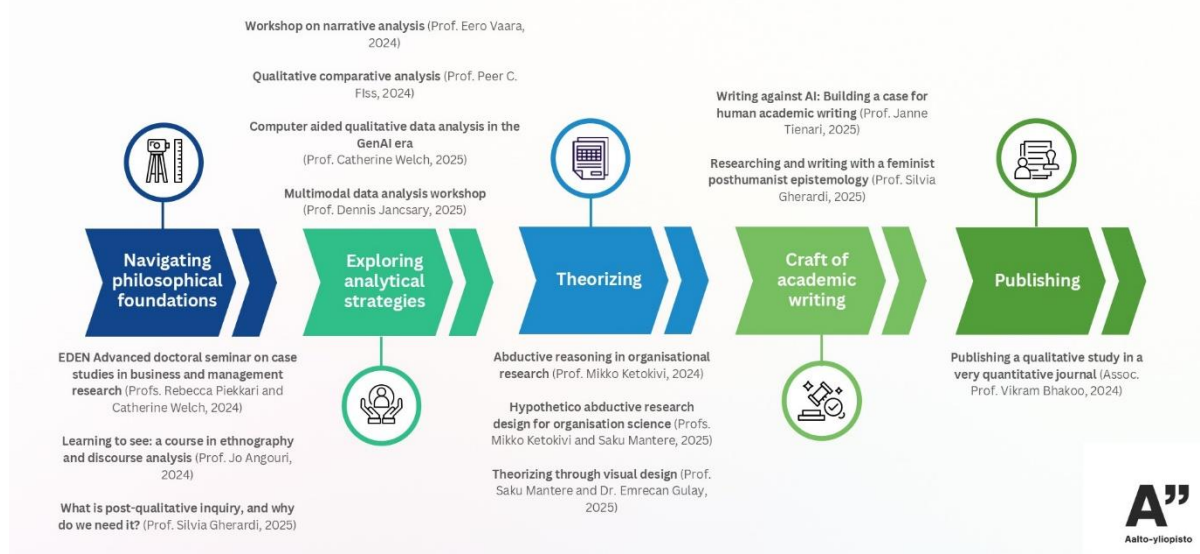
Looking ahead, in October Professor Silvia Gherardi (University of Trento), member of the Qual+ International Advisory Board, will give a seminar on post-qualitative methods. Professor Jesper Edman (Waseda University), in turn, will host a seminar on communicative strategies in M&As. We continue to connect members of the community with valuable external opportunities and support early-career scholars in their professional development. Taken together, as the figure below shows, our activities cover the entire research process, from navigating philosophical foundations to writing-up research findings for various audiences.

In case you would like additional support in one of the areas below, please contact us directly at qual-plus@aalto.fi.

How Qual+ supports researchers through every step

Examples of Qual+ workshops and seminars

Qual+



Event Spotlights

1. Qual+ Workshop: Cross-language Research: Translation and Linguistic Reflexivity, 14 January

Last spring term, we had the honour of hosting a workshop on translation and linguistic reflexivity by Dr. Juho Suokas (University of Eastern Finland) and Professor Kaisa Koskinen (Tampere University). During the workshop they explored what translation between languages means, what one may wish to reflect on regarding translation, what kinds of solutions are available and what these solutions entail for the research design and execution, both for the research team and for the individual researcher. Below a reflection by one of the workshop participants.

Reflection by postdoctoral researcher Eleonora Picco (Aalto University)

“If you are not aware of translation issues, then these won’t be a problem for you”.

Kaisa and Juho began by making the problem of translation visible to us. Small translations are part of everyday work, from translating an email to sharing a cup of coffee with international colleagues. Translation issues also permeate the research process, from project design to publishing results. For example, consciously using other languages - other than (academic) English - can surprisingly yield new perspectives on the questions we study and even introduce new concepts to the theories we build. Similarly, struggling with translating a portion of a transcript can reveal something noteworthy in our qualitative data. Translations inherently add multilayered interpretations, whether transcribing a speech or communicating in the field.

Kaisa and Juho offered a unique opportunity to act as strategic decision-makers when approaching translation issues in management research. In this sense, translation breaks away from being a merely literal, trustworthy operation or an attempt to create an easily flowing and fluent reading experience. Instead, translating is about “packing clothes into



**Workshop | Cross-Language Research:
Translation and Linguistic Reflexivity**



Dr. Juho Suokas
University of Eastern Finland

Prof. Kaisa Koskinen
University of Tampere

Location: Classroom 1572 Noether (Kide building)
Date and Time: Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 12:30–16:00

different suitcases, where the clothes are the same, but the shape of the luggage may change". The possibilities for translation are endless and context-dependent. It is up to us to fit translations to serve our purposes and convey meaning across languages, keeping in mind the dynamic values, positions, and cultures of our network of users and machines. If we want to focus on something different or reach another audience, we may need to translate our data once again.

Finally, Kaisa and Juho urged us to address the ethical and institutional challenge of conducting cross-language research with fairness and transparency. Are we recognizing the massive responsibility young scholars have in collecting new knowledge from the field and making it accessible? Are we adequately discussing our translation choices in our journals? Are we aware of the benefits, pitfalls, and social impact of translation?

Eleonora Picco is a Psychologist and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Accounting and Business Law, Aalto University School of Business. She is passionate about how social processes shape sustainability within organizations.

2. Qual+ Seminar: Writing against AI: Building a case for human academic writing, 17 September

Earlier this month, Qual+ welcomed Professor Janne Tienari (Hanken School of Economics) for a research seminar on human writing in the times of AI. In his presentation, Tienari explored why the unconditional use of generative AI in academic writing deserves more scrutiny, especially by those of us who care deeply about the craft of writing. This session made the intriguing case for slow, embodied, and political writing practices, and considered what is at stake for the future of academic work.

Editor's note: To learn more about Janne Tienari's approach on academic writing, check out this paper by him and Carol Kiriakos:

Kiriakos, C. M., & Tienari, J. (2018). Academic writing as love. *Management Learning*, 49(3), 263–277. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1350507617753560>.



Qual+ Seminar:

“Writing against AI: Building a Case for Human Academic Writing”

Time: Wednesday, 17 September at
12:15–13:45

Venue: Undergraduate center,
U135a U7 (PWC) (and online)

Seminar led by **Professor Janne
Tienari** (Hanken School of
Economics)



Qual+

Reflection by postdoctoral researcher Ana Paula Lafaire (Aalto University)

*Does it matter if I typed these words with my fingers
or if the AI generated them for me?*

Janne Tienari (Hanken School of Economics) and his co-author Emma Bell (Stockholm School of Economics) argue that it does matter - academic writing is a craft to be kept alive and to developed. During the seminar, Tienari highlighted how generative AI, specifically large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, reinforce instrumentalism and increase homogenization of what is written. Since academic writing is a practice, there is a risk of losing touch with the embodied and material encounters in knowledge creation such as reading, reflecting, and dialoguing with a situated audience in context.

I recently reviewed a paper where the authors cited fascinating articles from the same journal. However, when searching for these references as future readings, five of the sources had not been published - they did not exist! The article was rejected by the editor, but I have not stopped thinking about the ethics of citing when using AI. There is an erosion of trust, which is fundamental while reading and writing academic texts.

The takeaways of the seminar are:

- 1) To practice human writing...

However, it is worth noting that academic writing is a practice involving more-than-human relationships. I write-with a computer, the electricity needed to power it, on a desk, in silence, in the context of this institution, I also need apps to support my grammar and translation, without mentioning that I can't write on an empty stomach and without a good debrief with colleagues.





2) ...by writing against AI

What are you writing against? I write against epistemic injustice! And while I recognize the risks and challenges that generative AI poses to academic writing, I would like to propose an affirmative turn: How might we advocate for a craft that expands our creativity and wonder? I am for defending the 'human' process of knowing, even if it is not 'efficient', it is worth it.

Thank you, Janne and Emma, for thinking-with us. My writing process includes thinking with words and images. These are the digital versions of the ones I doodled down during the seminar.

Ana Paula Lafaire is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Management Studies, Aalto University School of Business. Her work explores creativity, ethics, and politics of organizing.

3. Capri Summer School course, 7-11 September

The Capri Summer School on Qualitative Research Methods, promoted by the University of Naples "Federico II", was born in 2013 in partnership with the Italian Academy of Business and Management (AIDEA). Through the years, Capri Summer School has become an important reference for the study of qualitative research methods for PhD students, post-doctoral students and early career scholars not only from Europe but also from other countries across the world.

In early September, scholars gathered on the stunningly beautiful island of Capri (Italy), for the 11th edition of the Capri Summer Schools. The aim of the Summer School is to foster knowledge and explore qualitative research methods in a stimulating context. The one-week intensive course offers plenary talks and roundtable discussions among participants and faculty. The school is organized by the University of Naples Federico II, together with the British Academy of Management (BAM), the Italian Academy of Business Administration and Management (AIDEA), and the Italian Association of Organization Studies (ASSIOA).



Photo by Andrea Tomo.

Reflection by doctoral candidate Sabrina Albiez (LUT University & RMIT)

Flying to Italy from rainy, cold Finland in September was definitely a great start to the week. Reflecting on the lectures, a main takeaway for me is that we as researchers are restricted by the limited knowledge on methodological diversity – especially from fields outside of our own. For example, in the field of anthropology, scholars commonly use ethnography and visual analysis. Coming from a business and management background, I tend to overlook approaches originating from other disciplines which could potentially benefit my research. For example, with new insights and learnings from the Summer School, I got inspired to write an autoethnography but where to publish this kind of research to reach the right kind of audience? Talking with faculty members, hearing how they had also struggled to publish methods diverging from the standard within their discipline, and receiving practical tips really motivated me.

For all that, lectures were only a small part of what made the Summer School great. The best part was the space in the program where discussions happened, space left for professors and student groups to chat, to build a network and to receive practical help for our research. For me, different perspectives on my research, sharing my reviewing experience for journals, and discussing how to better align my papers for the dissertation, were the main personal takeaways from the group discussions.

As the job in academia is often a lonely one, where we work on our own research and on our own learning journeys faced with anxieties, failures and wins, we tend to forget that there are others who go through the same things. The Summer School was a place where there was room for exactly this - open communication with a solution-based approach from experienced scholars.

Sabrina Albiez is a cotutelle PhD student at LUT University (Finland) and RMIT (Australia). Their research interest lies within Corporate Digital Responsibility and thus the ethical and sustainable considerations of companies towards data and digital technologies. As a researcher they would like to explore and try to understand the world in a qualitative way. They were interested to widen their knowledge about qualitative methods and were eventually made aware of the Capri Summer School.

Read more about the Capri Summer School here: <https://www.capri summerschool.it/>

Upcoming Qual+ Events

1. Qual+, O&M and IB Seminar: Communicative Strategies in Response to Liability of Origin: Evidence from Chinese M&As in Japan, October 6

Facilitated by professor Jesper Edman (Waseda University, Japan).

You are most welcome to this seminar hosted by International Business and Organizations & Management Units at the School of Business, together with Qual+. In this seminar, Professor Edman will present his work with Geer He on communicative strategies in M&As. The abstract of their paper is below.

Abstract:

Cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As) can be politically and socially sensitive. Especially when the home country of the acquirer is perceived unfavorably in the host country, the deal risks triggering liabilities of origin (LOR) and public opposition. Although previous studies have examined media discourses on cross-border M&As around the foreignness of the acquirers, we know little about firm strategies that seek to influence these discourses toward a favorable end in the context of LOR, where the acquirer's nationality constitutes the source of legitimacy concerns.

This study examines communicative strategies by focal firms to counter LOR in cross-border M&As. Qualitatively analyzing the content of corporate public communications following four Chinese acquisitions of Japanese firms (2009–2022), we identify four strategies: invisibilization, accreditation, detoxication, and contribution. We find these strategies operate at both the firm and country levels, and address both identity-based and impact-based LOR manifested in local concerns. Our study adds to the literature on the legitimization of cross-border M&As and LOR by incorporating communicative strategies into the broader collection of non-market strategies in international business.

Date: 6 October 2025

Time: 14.00-15.30

Location: Kide, Meitner (1571) (Konemiehentie 1)

2. Qual+ Seminar: What is post-qualitative inquiry, and why do we need it?, October 8

Facilitated by Prof. Silvia Gherardi (University of Trento, Italy).

We invite you to a morning seminar hosted by Qual+, together with Martta Nieminen, Saija Katila, Alice Wickström, Astrid Huopalainen, and Johanna Moisander.

Across the social sciences, there has been growing interest in post-qualitative inquiry and its potential to critically challenge the foundations of conventional qualitative research. This turn has sparked important conversations about what counts as knowledge, evidence, and data, and has highlighted the need to develop more ethical and response-able ways of knowing – approaches that move beyond linear research designs and traditional disciplinary conventions.

Post-qualitative inquiry invites us to rethink not only what research is, but how it is practiced. It opens up questions about the relationship between concepts and empirical inquiry, what it means to engage in research as a practice, and how to craft accounts that resonate with – rather than represent – the phenomena we seek to explore.

Date: Wednesday, 8 October 2025

Time: 10.30-12.00

Location: R038/V001 (Ekonominaukio 1)

Recent Qualitative Papers

Near-histories and strategy emergence: A microhistorical perspective, by Juha-Antti Lamberg, Eero Vaara, Pasi Nevalainen, and Henriikki Tikkanen (2025). Published in *Administrative Science Quarterly*.

A shortened abstract: Even when anticipated strategic decisions or actions do not materialize, they can still set in motion emergent dynamics with collateral consequences that lead to profound strategic consequences. Adopting a microhistorical lens, we elucidate the dynamics of these processes by focusing on two largely dismissed near-history episodes in the relatively recent history of the Nokia Corporation. We develop a process model that elaborates on how anticipatory reactions, mobilization of networks, revision of expectations, and the emergence of a new strategic direction can eventually have significant strategic consequences. By focusing on this poorly understood but important form of strategy emergence, we contribute to a fuller understanding of strategy emergence and the role of strategic agency therein.

[Available here.](#)

‘And then I undress for work’: Materiality and embodied identity work among professional mothers, by Taija Turunen, Saija Katila, Astrid Huopalainen, Seonyoung Hwang, and Marjo-Riitta Diehl (2025). Published in *Human Relations*.

A shortened abstract: How do professional mothers whose bodies undergo significant transformations engage with materiality – such as clothing, makeup and their own bodies – as active ‘resources’ when navigating their identities after maternity leave? We illustrate how mothers engage with the body and material objects to shape identities while being shaped by the agentic, symbolic and affective power of materiality. We emphasise the agency of materialities, such as aching flesh, affective makeup and everyday materiality, not only in shaping the body’s surface but also in influencing the sense of self. The identity of professional mothers is thus reconfigured through the dynamic interplay of agential flesh, objects and sociocultural forces.

[Available here.](#)

Taking context seriously through a phenomenology of place: An illustration of home-based work", by Bernadetta Ginting-Szczesny, Carmelita Ginting-Carlström, Ewald Kibler and Myrto Chliova (2025) in *Decolonizing Management and Organization Studies: Why, How, and What*, Fohim. E. (ed.) Research in the Sociology of Organizations.

A shortened abstract: Contextualization has received increased attention in organization and entrepreneurship studies, yet predominant assumptions remain of contexts as fixed and having objectivist effects on organizing and entrepreneurial activities, independent from local

actors' perceptions. In this paper, we bring forward the phenomenology of place as a means to be reflexive about contexts and resist the epistemic coloniality in organization and entrepreneurship studies.

[Available here.](#)

Reintroducing light to the study of organizations. Affective montages from the Cluny Monastery, by Philip Gylfe (2025). Published in *Organization Studies*.

A shortened abstract: This article revives the study of light and organization and explores how light, as a generator of organizational atmospheres, is part of organizational life. The study is set in the ruins of the 13th-century Cluny monastery north of Lyon, France, where I combine ethnographic detail, material from old Benedictine rule books, contemporary archaeological excavation data, and fictive videographic elements of a monk's experience of light and work to produce affective montages of light experiences. The result is a collection of montages exhibiting both moments where light guides towards the pure, ideal and divine and moments where the surprising, embodied and neglected emerges. I suggest light as an important atmosphere generator and foreground an interplay between light experiences of both distance-based control and affective reactions that rely on an immersive body.

[Available here.](#)

Centering the dialogicity of dare: A posthuman exploration of the politics of liveability in alternative organizing, by Alice Wickström, Laura Kangas-Müller, Ana Paula Lafaire, and Aleksi Soini (2025), published in *Organization Studies*.

A shortened abstract: This study explores the politics of liveability in alternative organizing from a feminist posthuman approach to care. Drawing on an affective ethnographic engagement with a communal sauna in Finland, we illustrate how 'responses' to 'calls' between bodies, affects, artifacts, texts, norms, and living matter influence organizing by both nurturing and troubling interdependencies between humans and non-humans. We emphasize how these patterns of 'call-and-response' reflect the inherent dialogicity of care, which performatively shapes how needs and interests are recognized, and how resources and responsibilities are distributed.

[Available here.](#)

Recent Methods Papers

What are mechanisms? Ways of conceptualizing and studying causal Mechanisms, by Joep P. Cornelissen and Mirjam Werner (2025). Published in *Organizational Research Methods*.

A shortened abstract: In this paper, we review and synthesize the literature that has amassed around causal mechanisms. We do so by detailing the different methodological perspectives that are featured in management research, which we label as the contextual, constitutive, and interventionist perspectives. For each of these perspectives, we examine what it theoretically presupposes a mechanism to be, how this connects to methodological choices, and how this shapes the kind of mechanism-based explanations that each perspective offers. We also explore the main inferential challenges for each of these perspectives and offer specific methodological guidance in response.

[Available here.](#)

Using quotes to present claims: Practices for the writing stages of qualitative research, by Kevin W. Rockmann and Heather C. Vough (2024). Published in *Organizational Research Methods*, 27(4), 621-649.

A shortened abstract: While there has been a great deal of guidance on qualitative research methodology, such scholarship has focused almost exclusively on the first three parts of the qualitative process: study design, data gathering, and coding/analysis. We suggest that writing findings is a fourth stage that involves pre-writing and composing. Our intent is to provide practices for this phase for those who are using qualitative data as the evidentiary basis for their claims. The pre-writing phase is strengthened by structuring claims and storyboarding findings, while the composing phase is improved by critically evaluating how to insert the author's voice. Practices surrounding qualitative writing are discussed, such as which quotes to include, where to place quotes, and how to edit quotes.

[Available here.](#)

Cultivating insightful theory-building in qualitative research, by Ewald Kibler, Eero Vaara, and Lauri Laine (2025). Published in *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*, (AJG*2), 24, e00567.

A shortened abstract: We have witnessed a proliferation of theory-building qualitative research in entrepreneurship and management studies over the past two decades. While this overall trend is worth celebrating, we argue that it is time to pause and reflect on the broader theoretical and practical impact of this body of work. Although methodological sophistication and the use of structured templates have enhanced rigor, the theoretical models generated

through qualitative inquiry are rarely revisited or extended in subsequent research or practice. Thus, we suggest moving beyond the production of ‘stand-alone’ theoretical models toward what we call insightful theory-building, a mode of inquiry that prioritizes the development of clear, actionable insights that others can build upon, thereby enabling stepwise, cumulative theory development.

[Available here.](#)

Approaching, contacting, and grasping: An annotated methodology, by Christopher R. Matthews (2025). Published in *Qualitative Inquiry*.

The main thrust of the work is to demonstrate the utility of reconsidering the ways we think and write about methods using the interconnected notions of approaching, contacting, and grasping. Doing so should encourage us to deliver what I think are the most important features of a methodological discussion—that is, we should say what we did, why we did it and how. When scholars do this well, a methods section can “sing” with an intentional and, at times, intense focus on the practical, precise, and descriptive rather than the abstract, vague, and intangible. Stated differently, it puts the onus on us, our processes, and our understanding of them, while also addressing the central features that sit at the core of sound research.

[Available here.](#)

Open Calls for Papers

How methods can advance theory in management research by *Journal of Management Studies*.

This special issue seeks research on the method-theory relationship that produces theoretical development and improvement. Research spanning qualitative, quantitative, and critical management studies, as well as the micro, macro, and meso traditions of management scholarship, is welcome. Papers focusing purely on methods and methodological innovation, without an explicit link to theorizing, are not well-suited to this special issue. Instead, we seek papers that explicitly address methods and their value for theorizing in the service of advancing the management field.

Deadline 30 April 2026.

[You can read the full call for papers here.](#)

Qualitative methods for health justice: Addressing contemporary social problems through lived experience and community engagement by *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*.

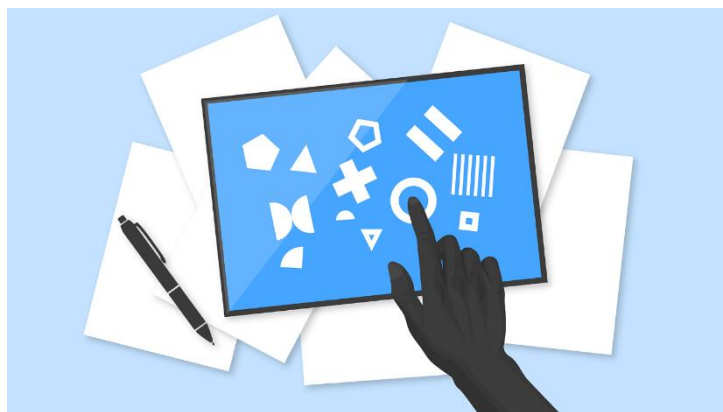
This Special Collection explores how qualitative methods illuminate and address pressing social and health challenges, especially among underserved and marginalized communities. Focusing on lived experiences in rural and urban contexts, it seeks contributions that show how qualitative research reveals hidden health inequities, informs context-specific interventions, and supports community-led responses to systemic barriers. We are particularly interested in work engaging indigenous populations, informal urban settlements, displaced communities, conflict-affected groups, and others facing structural disadvantage.

Deadline 23 February 2026.

[You can read the full call for papers here.](#)

Training sessions by Aalto's Data Agents

Training offered in AI in research, data visualisation, cyber security & more!



Registrations are open! Aalto Research Services' open research training series includes both recurring webinars and new topics.

Whether you're a seasoned researcher or just starting out, Aalto Data Agents' webinars provide valuable opportunities to reevaluate your working methods,

acquire new insights, and boost your researcher skills. The webinars are free and open to all and don't require prior knowledge of the subject unless stated otherwise.

You can find the complete **list of webinars for the autumn 2025** here: [Training in Research Data Management and Open Science](#).

Some of the webinars will be recorded and published on the [Aalto Research Services YouTube channel](#) where you can also find recordings from previous years. The lectures always include interactive parts or a Q&A at the end, which won't be recorded to respect the participants'

privacy. We encourage all participants to actively contribute to the discussion and pose questions!

Any questions about the training or data management can be sent to their support address: researchdata@aalto.fi.

The Qual+ team has grown!

Dr. Aleksi Soini started as a part-time **coordinator** for the Qual+ in September 2025. Aleksi is a postdoctoral researcher in the Unit of Organizational Communication at the Department of Management Studies, in the School of Business. He currently works with Senior University Lecturer Kirsi Eräranta on their project exploring the organization of employee resource groups in Finnish organizations. Aleksi's further research interests include identity work, art-based methods, and poetic inquiry.



Dr. Emrecan Gulay continues as a member of the Qual+ team.

Keep in touch through our new email address

Qual+ Newsletter is published quarterly. If you have recently published a methodologically innovative piece of research and would like to see your work highlighted in the newsletter or on our LinkedIn page, please send a link to your paper to our new email address, qual-plus@aalto.fi. Please, let us know about articles, books, calls for special issues, edited volumes, or if you are organizing an event or a course relevant to the Qual+ community, contact [Aleksi Soini](#), the Qual+ Coordinator. We would be happy to include this information in the next newsletter and share it with our growing community.

Follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/qual-plus>