Beyond methodological dualism:
Combining qualitative and quantitative data
Bielefeld University, Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZIF)
February 9-10, 2015

There is a long tradition of mixed methods research in the social sciences: “Marienthal: The Sociography of an Unemployed Community” by Marie Jahoda, Paul Lazarsfeld et al. (1933) was pioneering in this regard as it combined various types of data. Today, mixed-methods research and triangulation studies are popular in social scientific fields such as sociology, education sciences, and economics, and a number of comprehensive books have been published on the subject. The focus of this international workshop is on linking quantitative datasets with qualitative studies. Methodologically integrated study designs combine different perspectives on social phenomena. Thus, they offer an opportunity to analyze different aspects and draw conclusions from the analysis. However, good mixed methods research is based on knowledge about the two methodological approaches and about the methodological, theoretical, and analytic challenges specific to integrating various logical approaches to research. In order to address all these aspects, the conference combines three event formats: Plenary lectures by invited keynote speakers will present an overview of mixed-methods approaches and designs and discuss possibilities for combined sampling and analysis. These aspects will be explored further in methodological workshops based on different studies and research questions, which will offer a forum for exchanging experiences about practical and methodological research questions. The potential of mixed methods research will be discussed on the basis of concrete studies in thematic workshops that will cover the following research fields: labor market, social inequality, family, and migration. The goal of the event is to discuss ongoing research projects, to increase knowledge, to exchange experiences, and to network across disciplines, methodologies, and national boundaries. The event’s target group is researchers in sociology, economics, political science, educational science, and psychology who work or plan to work with mixed methods or triangulation and who are interested in sharing experiences with mixed methods designs in practical research.

Organisation: Andrea Hense, Ingrid Tucci, Michael Grüttner, and Laura Bernardi

For further information and registration, please contact:
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The workshop is open to a limited number of participants. Make sure you register before January 18, 2015!

Preliminary Program

Monday, February 9
10:00am Welcome
10:15am Keynote “Mapping the Context”: Udo Kuckartz (Philipps University Marburg)
11:30am Keynote “Mixed Methods Designs and Sampling”: Margrit Schreier (Jacobs University Bremen)
12:30am Lunch
2:00pm Keynote “Mixed Methods Data Analysis”: Rossalina Latcheva (FRA Vienna)
3:30pm Methodological Workshop Sessions (parallel sessions)
A1: Design, Sampling
A2: Combined Analysis, Writing-up
6:30pm End

Tuesday, February 10
9:00am Keynote “Combining Various Data Types”: Nina Baur (TU Berlin)
10:15am Thematic Workshop Sessions (parallel sessions)
B1: Social Inequality Research with Mixed Methods
B2: Family Research with Mixed Methods
12:15pm Lunch
1:45pm Thematic Workshop Sessions (parallel sessions)
C1: Migration Research with Mixed Methods
C2: Labor Market Research with Mixed Methods
3:45pm Farewell and informal get-together
5:00pm End