



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Call for Papers

INHABITING UNCERTAINTY. A FORUM ON QUALITATIVE, QUANTITATIVE AND VISUAL METHODS

Sapienza University of Rome
14-15 September 2023, Rome – Italy

Organized by
the European Sociological Association's research networks
Qualitative Methods (RN20) & Quantitative Methods (RN21)
in collaboration with
Visual & Digital Cultures Research Center (ViDi - University of Antwerp)
and promoted by
Methodology Section of the Italian Association of Sociology (AIS-MET)

In current years, several factors are contributing to general profound alterations of individual and collective living: the emergency situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic joined by other critical issues, such as Russian-Ukrainian war, energy crisis, economic and political instability are undermining the certainties of people and institutions. Inhabiting uncertainty has become today's human condition. No field of life is excluded from uncertainty: health, work, free time, communication, and the emotional/affective sphere have been affected. Even science faces uncertainty. On the one hand, the epistemic authority of scientists is questioned, on the other, current changes require new analytical tools.

This also concerns social research methods. Approaching the instability of today's living conditions means facing a vast range of methodological challenges: the ever-increasing use of apps and internet-based tools and services in research, the continuing 'crisis of the interview society', as well as the use of images and big data require the ability to deal with uncertainties and an increasingly close dialogue among different methodological approaches and tools.

Particularly young researchers find themselves in an ambivalent situation: while mostly receiving hyper-specialist and segmented training, they are also expected to intensely engage with mixed methods, often without providing the intellectual space and resources to address the resulting uncertainties and to develop a critical awareness on limits and advantages of the different approaches and the merged use of techniques.

Added to this is the fact that – despite the apparent common ground – methodological divides within the social sciences also run deep, the corresponding networks of scholars forming communities of practice that differ regarding theoretical sensibilities, technical expertise, and ways in which the field of research is engaged with. As lamented by many scholars (e.g., Mahoney, Goertz, Ostrom, Poteete and Janssen), these communities often see themselves as rival camps remaining entrenched in their certainties rather than engaging in inhabiting uncertainties in a constructive way. Both competition for professional status and resources as well as the different ontological, normative, and theoretical positions that go along with different methodologies contribute to this lack of dialogue.

The Forum's aim is to foster an effective methodological dialogue to navigate through uncertainty and provide young and emerging scholars with the intellectual opportunity to discuss their methodological approach.



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The Forum on Qualitative, Quantitative and Visual Methods

The Forum addresses young social sciences researchers (PhD students and post-doc fellows) with the aim of supporting their research with methodological insights and recommendations for their projects, engaging them in a dialogue with senior researchers and experts in different methodological fields. The expectation is to discuss how to skillfully choose, use and eventually merge different methods in a critical and holistic perspective.

The Forum will take place September 14 and 15, 2023 at the Congress Center located in via Salaria 113, 00198 in Rome.

The Forum will be hosted by the Sapienza University of Rome, and it is organized by the research network “Qualitative Methods” (RN20) and “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociological Association, together with the network related to the Visual & Digital Cultures Research Center of the University of Antwerp (ViDi) and promoted by the Methodology Section of the Italian Association of Sociology (AIS-MET).

How to submit a paper proposal

PhD students and post-doc fellows are invited to send a 1200-word count abstract (including references) that is written in English and contains the following information:

- Name and surname
- University/Research institution
- Research position (PhD student/post-doc fellow) and PhD/research supervisor/mentor (if provided)
- Study objectives and context
- Theoretical / conceptual framework
- Methodological framework (approaches/techniques)
- Methodological questions/challenges
- Main bibliographic references

Deadline for abstract submission: 10th April 2023

Decision on acceptance: 1st May 2023

E-mail address for submission: forum.rome2023@gmail.com

After abstract acceptance, participants are required to register in the Forum.

SCIENTIFIC & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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