

THE SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SHORT COURSES 2018



BEYOND SURVEYS AND EXPERIMENTS OTHER APPROACHES TO IMPACT EVALUATION

21–25 MAY 2018 | 20 places





TARGET AUDIENCE

Early and mid-level professionals, postgraduate students and academics with interests in evaluation, including those working with or in international agencies, donor organisations, governments, think-tanks, and NGOs.

THE COURSE FEE

£1,850 – includes all tuition, daily lunches and refreshments.

COURSE DIRECTORS

The course is co-directed by Prof Laura Camfield and Dr Barbara Befani, who will deliver most of the teaching.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The course is conducted in English. Full competence in English, written and spoken is an essential requirement.

COURSE CONTENT

- The context: Introduction to ‘small n’ approaches to impact evaluation within a logic of methodological appropriateness.
- The first problem: Establishing attribution vs. contribution in ‘small n’ scenarios and the role of theory.
- The second problem: Rigour and credibility in ‘small n’ research designs.
- ‘Small n’ methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Process Tracing with Bayesian updating.



BEYOND SURVEYS AND EXPERIMENTS – OTHER APPROACHES TO IMPACT EVALUATION

THE COURSE IS INTRODUCTORY AND PRIMARILY DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF EVALUATION AND ARE BEGINNING TO USE ‘SMALL N’ APPROACHES IN THEIR WORK RATHER THAN EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONERS.

The course will familiarise participants with ‘small n’, qualitative and mixed methods approaches and look at what they need to use them successfully, responding to a recognition that experimental and quasi experimental approaches to evaluation are not always feasible or desirable. This opens a space for alternative, appropriate or ‘small n’ methods and the course explores how to do these rigorously in resource-constrained contexts.

Participants will leave the course able to:

- Understand the current challenges the impact evaluation community is grappling with by learning about ‘small n’ evaluation approaches.
- Understand different approaches to developing a non-experimental evaluation framework that will enable causal inferences to be drawn.
- Understand the value of a theory based approach in establishing and understanding causation.
- Understand the key characteristics of methods such as Process Tracing with Bayesian updating and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), and how they might work for different evaluation questions and contexts.
- Understand what they need to know to select the most appropriate approaches for their evaluation questions in their specific evaluation context.
- Recognise the challenges as well as the benefits of using ‘small n’ approaches, drawing on qualitative and quantitative data.

TEACHING TEAM

Laura Camfield is a Professor in Development Research and Evaluation. She trained as an anthropologist, but now works collaboratively using qualitative and quantitative methods and training others in their use, most recently with the DFID-funded Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence longitudinal evaluation in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bangladesh, and Nepal (2016-25). Her current research focus is on enhancing the quality of mixed and ‘small n’ methods within evaluation. At UEA she convenes the main research training module for PhD students, and teaches on courses in impact evaluation and research methodology. She has published widely on methodology, specifically in relation to mixing methods to improve the quality of surveys and measures.

Dr Barbara Befani specialises in innovative and appropriate methods for (impact) evaluation methods, in particular those based on set-theory (like for example QCA) and formal and informal Bayesian probability (like Process Tracing). She has developed a framework to understand and apply notions of methodological appropriateness in (impact) evaluation and is interested in combining causal inference designs. Recently she has developed a unified framework to quality assure both qualitative and quantitative (impact) evaluations. She is a Research Fellow at the University of Surrey and a Research Associate at UEA. She is a former Secretary General of the European Evaluation Society and is regularly invited to address audiences at evaluation conferences.

WHY CHOOSE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT UEA?

International Development UEA has pioneered research, training and consultancy in international development for nearly 50 years. It works with a range of clients including national and international development agencies, governments and NGOs. International Development UEA is the ideal broad-based multi-disciplinary environment in which to undertake training. The faculty have a wide range of academic disciplines with an intensive engagement in development practice through academic funded research and consultancy in many development arenas and geographical regions.

The University of East Anglia is an internationally renowned university on a distinctive and attractive campus just outside the historic city of Norwich.

Our research-led short courses seek to educate, inform and promote discussion and networking between participants and our researchers. They provide cutting edge training on the most pertinent and relevant topics in international development. Join us!

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