TOWARDS RIGOUR IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH:
A DISCUSSION SEMINAR

In this interactive seminar, I would like to make you reflect about the rigour of your own research strategies. Throughout the seminar, I will draw on examples from my own fieldwork in Belgium and South Africa, but I trust that we can also discuss the strengths and the limitations of your own methodologies. The starting point is that evaluation criteria used within the positivist research paradigm (internal validity, external validity, reliability and objectivity) cannot be used as meaningful guidelines for the evaluation of research conducted within interpretivist, naturalist or constructivist paradigms. Based on the work of Lincoln and Guba (1985) and its application in human geography by Baxter and Eyles (1997), I will propose four new evaluation criteria (credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability). I will also discuss strategies to increase the likelihood that research findings based on in-depth interviews, focus-groups, observations, ... are credible, transferable, dependable and confirmable. In the conviction that ethical issues should be central to the evaluation of qualitative research, I will add the notions of informed consent, confidentiality, harm and exploitation as a fifth evaluation criteria.

Lincoln, Y.S., Guba, E.G. (1985), *Naturalistic Inquiry*, Beverly Hills: SAGE.
Baxter, J., Eyles, J. (1997), Evaluating qualitative research in social geography: establishing 'rigour' in inter-view analysis. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 22, p. 505-525.

Requested reading prior to the workshop
Schuermans N., (2017), *Towards rigour in Qualitative Research*

guest lecturer
Nick Schuermans,
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

round table of Ph.D. candidates

Participation is open to all interested in discussing qualitative research methodology issues. For those interested in presenting their work at the round table, please write an email to chiara.basile@polito.it

chair
Chiara Basile, PoliTO, VUB Brussels

29th June 2017
09:30 - 13:00

Sala Vigliano,
Castello del Valentino,
Politecnico di Torino