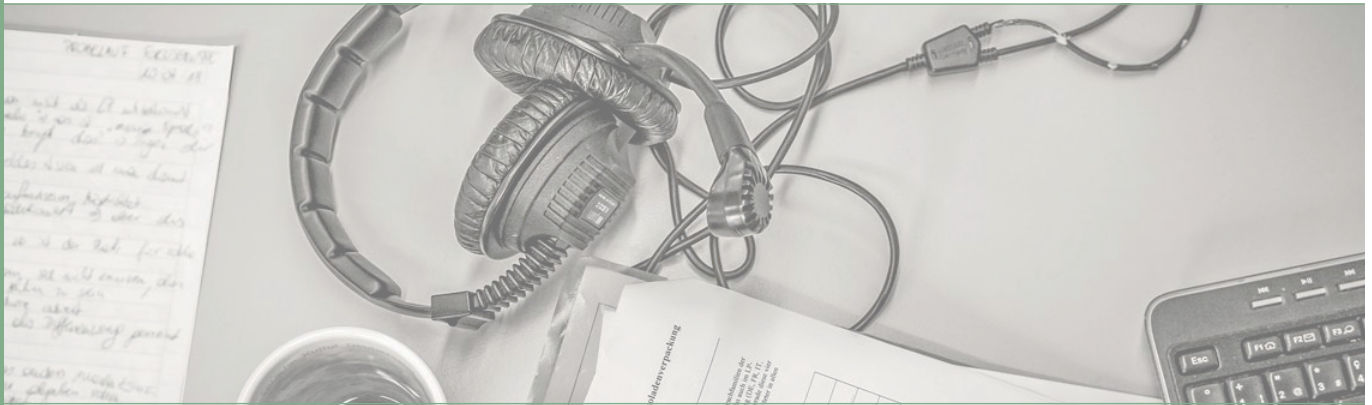


Q methodology for research in foreign language teaching



Workshop

Dr. Adrian Lundberg

Malmö University, Sweden

organizer: Prof. Anita Thomas, UniFR

Friday, May 6, 2022

Institute of Multilingualism

University I HEP Fribourg

Rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg

📍room K1.03

In this workshop, the main focus will be put on Q methodology (Stephenson, 1935). Despite being proclaimed as “the best-developed paradigm for the investigation of human subjectivity” (Dryzek & Holmes, 2002, 20), the almost 90-year-old methodology is largely unknown. The central aspect in Q methodological research engages participants in a rank-ordering activity of a collection of items onto a forced distribution grid. In most cases, these items are written statements representing potential answers to the central question of interest. Through inverted factor analysis, this inherently mixed approach allows researchers to move from individual to collective subjectivities. In that sense, Q can be seen as an alternative and flexible approach to investigate subjective and often unconscious phenomena, such as beliefs in educational settings (Lundberg, de Leeuw & Aliani, 2020).

Reporting from his recent research about teachers’ theoretical understanding of multilingualism as a phenomenon and their thinking about potential pedagogical actions with regard to multilingualism in Swiss and Swedish education (Lundberg, 2019a/b; 2020), Lundberg will give participants insight into a worked example of Q methodology in the field of foreign language teaching. Lundberg’s approach is based on an ecological model of teacher agency and a social and dynamic view of teacher beliefs.



Programme

- 8:45 Welcome Coffee and Introduction
9:00 A Primer on Q with the intended learning outcome of participants being able to roughly understand the key principles, stages and steps of Q methodological research. (cf. suggested reading 3 & 4)
10:00 Break
10:15 A Primer on Q (continuation)
11:15 PhD Presentation
12:00 Lunch
13:15 “Viewpoints about educational language policies: Multilingualism in Sweden and Switzerland” public lecture followed by a discussion (cf. suggested readings 1 - 3)
14:00 PhD Presentation
14:45 Break
15:00 PhD Presentation
15:45 Closing remarks
16:00 End of Workshop

Evening Workshop dinner

PhD programme on Multilingualism

The event is part of the doctoral programme Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society (more information here: <https://institut-plurilinguisme.ch/fr/programme-doctoral>)

Participation

Doctoral students of the programme’s partner universities (Fribourg, Berne, and Lausanne) are eligible to participate. Students from other Swiss universities may participate depending on places available.

Contact & Registration

To register, please contact Dr. Philippe Humbert (philippe.humbert@unifr.ch) by April 28, 2022.

Short bio

Adrian Lundberg is currently employed as a senior lecturer at the Department of School Development and Leadership at Malmö University, Sweden, where he completed his PhD in 2020. His research focuses on investigating stakeholders’ subjective viewpoints about educational issues at the crossroads of multilingualism, equity and policy. In addition to his experience as a secondary school teacher and a pre- and in-service teacher educator, mainly in the areas of language education, Lundberg has worked as an educational developer in Switzerland and Sweden.

Suggested readings

- (1) Lundberg, A. (2019a). Teachers’ viewpoints about an educational reform concerning multilingualism in German-speaking Switzerland. *Learning and Instruction*. 101244, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.learninstruc.2019.101244>
- (2) Lundberg, A. (2019b). Teachers’ beliefs about multilingualism: findings from Q method research. *Current Issues in Language Planning*, 20(3), 266–283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14664208.2018.1495373>.
- (3) Lundberg, A. (2020). Viewpoints about educational language policies: Multilingualism in Sweden and Switzerland. Malmö University. <https://doi.org/10.24834/isbn.9789178770779>
- (4) Lundberg, A., de Leeuw, R. R., & Aliani, R. (2020). Using Q Methodology: Sorting out Subjectivity in Educational Research. *Educational Research Review*, 31, 100361. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.edurev.2020.100361>

