



Scuola Superiore
Sant'Anna



PhD in Management

Title of the course: **Research Design for Policy Analysis**

Lecturer: Prof. Philip Shapira, University of Manchester and Georgia Institute of Technology (pshapira@gmail.com)

Short description of the course and exam

This course introduces underlying conceptual and methodological issues in research design for policy analysis. Students will present their own research designs and there will be an in-class quiz at the end of the course.

Student commitment and preparation for the course

As a result of completing the participation, reading, discussion, research, writing and presentation requirements, students will acquire:

1. An improved understanding of key concepts and processes in social and policy research, including scientific method, theory development and falsification, hypothesis building, research design, controls, data collection and validation, and analysis and interpretation.
2. An enhanced appreciation of the operation, applicability, strengths and weaknesses of selected quantitative and qualitative research methods.
3. Improved capabilities in defining a research problem, formulating research questions and hypotheses
4. Enhanced skills in developing, critiquing and interpreting social and policy research.

The course focuses on research design. It does not deal with data analysis or statistical manipulation. To prepare for the course, students should review the sections on “Foundations,” “Measurement,” and “Design,” in Trochim (2006), see under Recommended Readings.

Location, dates and time

The course will take place at Istituto di Management, Palazzo Alliata, Piazza Martiri della Libertà 24, Pisa (Check the dates on the PhD Management calendar) on:

- October 17, 2013 - 2.30 to 6.30 pm;
- October 18, 2013 - 9.30 to 12.30 am;
- October 18, 2013 – 2 to 6 pm

Recommended readings

Trochim, William M. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition. Online at <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb> (2006).