



Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche ed Aziendali

Direttore: Prof. Patrizio Monfardini

Dottorato in Scienze Economiche e Aziendali

Doctoral Program in Economics and Business

Coordinatrice: Prof.ssa Francesca Cabiddu

Introduction to Research Design in Accounting, Business and Management

Course leader: Andrea Melis

Other instructors: Alessandro Spano, Patrizio Monfardini, Alessandro Mura, Simone Aresu, Luigi Rombi

Aims of the course

The course aims to introduce Phd students to the main research design issues in the accounting, business, and management fields.

Learning outcomes and competences

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be introduced:

- to the main criteria of doing research in top-tier international journals in the field
- on how to choose a theoretical framework for their research study
- on how to choose a research method for their research study
- on how to critically assess an academic paper.

Pre-requisites

None

Course contents and syllabus

Lecture 1 Andrea Melis 12 th May 2025 h.08.30-10.00 Room CM 5 – Campus Aresu	Doing research in top-tier international journals: main criteria and qualitative characteristics
Lecture 2 Alessandro Mura 19 th May 2025 h. 09:00-11:00 Room 8 – Campus S. Ignazio	How to choose a theory and research method, using an empirical quantitative approach



Lecture 3 Patrizio Monfardini 20 th May 2025 h.09:00-11:00 Room 14 – Campus Sant’ Ignazio	How to choose a theory and research method, using an empirical qualitative approach
Lecture 4 Alessandro Spano 26 th May 2025 h.10:00-13:00 Room 8 – Campus Sant’ Ignazio	How to choose a theory and a research method in an emerging field
Lecture 5 Luigi Rombi 27 th May 2025 h.10:00-12:00 Room 14 – Campus Sant’ Ignazio	How to choose a theory and research method, using an empirical quantitative approach
Lecture 6 Simone Aresu 29 th May 2025 h.10:00-12:00 Room 14 – Campus Sant’ Ignazio	How to change the theory, method and findings during the review process: <i>dos and don'ts</i>
Lecture 7 Andrea Melis 05 th June 2025 h. 9:00-10:00 Room 14 – Campus Sant’ Ignazio	How to evaluate an academic paper: an editor's perspective.

Organization of the course

The course consists of 13.5 hours of lectures scheduled

Assessment method

Students are required to write a critical review of an assigned paper.

Reading list

- Aresu, S., Hooghiemstra, R., & Melis, A. (2023). Integration of CSR criteria into executive compensation contracts: a cross-country analysis. *Journal of Management*, 49(8), 2766-2804.
- Aresu S., Monfardini P., (2023). Oppressed by consumerism: The emancipatory role of household accounting. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, vol. 96, doi.org/10.1016/j.cpa.2022.102552.



- Melis, A. (2025). Beyond methodological monism: embracing pluralism in governance research. *Journal of Management and Governance*, 1-9.
- Melis, A., & Rombi, L. (2021). Country-, firm-, and director-level risk and responsibilities and independent director compensation. *Corporate Governance: An International Review*, 29(3), 222-251.



- Mura, A. (2023). Reconciling Competing Reporting Objectives Through Deferred Tax Accounts: Evidence on Private Italian Firms. *Accounting in Europe*, 20(3), 304-338.
- Racis S, Spano A. (2024), Unlocking the Promise of Process Mining: Shaping Perceptions and Impact in the Public Sector, *European Journal of Innovation Management*, ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EJIM-10-2023-0887>.
- Racis, S., Spano, A. and Latti, G. (2024), Process reengineering and public value creation: using process mining in courts, *International Journal of Public Sector Management*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJPSM-02-2024-0049>.
- Stoney C., Asquith A., Kipper K., McNeill J., Martin J. and Spano A., (2023), Policy-making, policy-taking, and policy-shaping: Local government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, Vol. 1, N. 22, pp.1-22, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8500.12585>