

University of Nairobi and LEARN Logistics Advance Qualitative Research Capacity

To strengthen the capacity of emerging scholars to undertake research, LEARN Logistics by Kühne Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Nairobi, convened a guest seminar on Qualitative Research Methods on 7 August 2026 at the University's Upper Kabete Campus. The half-day seminar brought together 29 postgraduate students from programmes including Sustainable Management and Operations, Business Research, Agricultural and Applied Economics, alongside faculty members. The seminar was delivered by Dr. Simon Peter Nadeem, Senior Program Manager at LEARN Logistics by Kühne Foundation. It introduced participants to the principles and practical application of qualitative research, covering research design, data collection, sampling, coding, thematic analysis and approaches to ensuring research rigor and trustworthiness.

For many participants, whose academic backgrounds lean heavily toward quantitative methods, the seminar offered a new perspective on qualitative inquiry. Students gained a deeper appreciation of qualitative research as a rigorous discipline in its own right, not a “softer” alternative to statistics, but a distinct approach for understanding meaning, processes and context. A key focus of the seminar was also the responsible use of artificial intelligence in qualitative research, with participants examining both its potential and limitations in supporting research processes. Drawing on peer-reviewed studies from Kenya and the wider region, the seminar provided practical and locally relevant examples that participants could relate to. Initiatives such as this, contribute to enhanced research capacity and equipping young African scholars with the methodological skills and ethical judgement needed to produce high-quality, impactful research.