



Hovedoppgaven: Kvalitative prosjekt

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Examples of journals that publish qualitative research

Social Science and Medicine

International Journal of Social Research
Methodology

Qualitative Health Research

Health and Social Care in the Community

Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the
Social Study of Health, Illness and
Medicine

Also: numerous journals within clinical and
community psychology and counselling




Getting started ...

- Do you have research questions that can be addressed through a qualitative study?
- Have you found a supervisor to supervise a qualitative study?
- Are you researching a topic where qualitative research has been used before?
- Can you find literature explaining the methods you want to use?

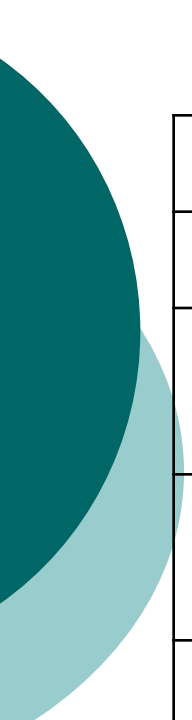


Problems?

- I can't find studies that are relevant to my topic and methods
- I don't know how big or small my research questions should be
- I don't know how big a sample I will need
- I don't know what theory will be most relevant



Months	Activities
Month 1	Identify a topic, find a supervisor & start literature search
Month 2	Start writing research questions & identify possible methods Literature search on topic and methods
Month 3	Refine research questions & identify methods texts Draft literature review
Month 4	Draft research proposal & develop research materials
Month 5	Ethical approval process ** Begin building research networks
Month 6	Continue reading about topic and methods Build research networks
Month 7	When ethical process is complete, begin recruiting participants and generating data



Months	Activities
Month 8	Recruit participants and generate data**
Month 9	Recruit participants and generate data Start analysing data
Month 10	Analyse data Revisit literature
Month 11	Write up data analysis and get feedback**
Month 12	Write up introduction and method section and get feedback
Month 13	Work more on analysis and write conclusion and abstract
Month 14	Produce final thesis



Research Proposal

- What?

A brief document identifying relevant literature, stating research questions and methods

- Why?

Helps you to be clear about what you are doing

- How?

Write as much detail about your method as possible. Include a timeline.



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Research Networks

- Does your research rely on other people (e.g., an organisation to help you recruit participants)?
- Describe the research networks you need to make your project possible



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Research Ethics

- What ethical considerations does your study raise?
- Identify literature that discusses ethical issues
- How will you address the ethical issues relevant to your research?



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Participants

- Describe the participants
- Explain how and where you will find them
- Explain how you will approach them
- Justify your exclusion and inclusion criteria



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Producing Data

- What methods will you use to produce data?
- Identify literature that explains how these methods work
- Explain how you will prepare the data for analysis (e.g., transcribing, anonymisation)
- Explain how you will store the data



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Analysing Data

- Describe your planned approach to analysis
- Identify literature that describes how this type of analysis works
- Break the process down into steps that you can understand and follow



Research Proposal: Methods

Details to include: Presenting your research

- Will you give feedback to participants?
- Are there other people or organisations that need to hear about your findings?
- How will you make your research appropriate and available to others?

Your research...

Generating data ...

Observation

Documents

Media sources

Focus groups

Interviews

Questionnaires

Web-based methods

Analysing data ...

Discursive approaches

Narrative approaches

Phenomenological approaches

Thematic analysis

Content analysis

- Take some time to think about your (likely) topic area
- Write down some possible research questions
- Identify the kinds of methods you could use



What do YOU need to know?

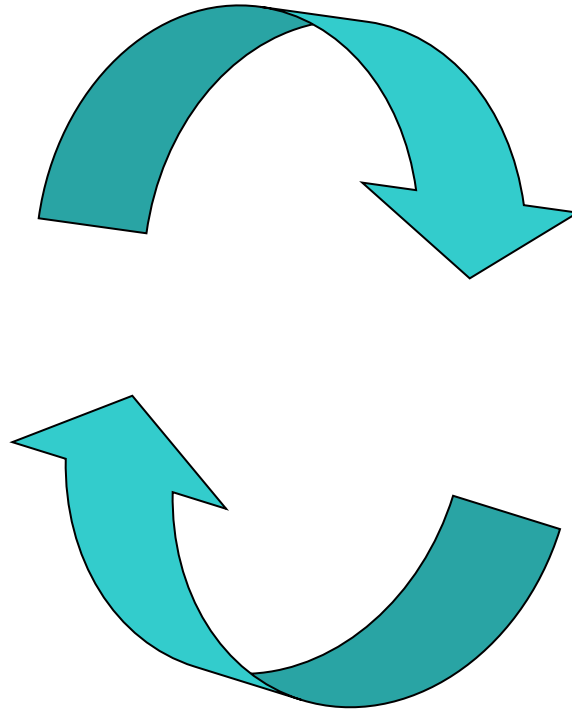
Talk to the person next to you about what YOU need from this lecture

Engaging participants in qualitative research



Engaging with research participants' worlds

**Developing
research
questions**



**Engaging with
participants'
worlds**



What questions do you need to address?

Reflect on:

- ❖ The questions you begin with at the start of your study
- ❖ The questions you ask the participants
- ❖ The questions you use to guide your data analysis
- ❖ The questions that emerge out of your analysis




Begin with a picture of where you are
going!

Imagine your completed thesis!



What will structure your write-up?

- ❖ A diagram?
- ❖ Thematic headings?
- ❖ Research questions?
- ❖ Scientific report headings?



What is it useful or important to be able to say?

- Not easily accepted?
- vulnerable to criticism?
- ethical issues?
- recommendations for a change of practice?
- likely to be misinterpreted?



What is innovative about your study?

- With the right approach to writing up, your research can stand out as insightful, useful, critical, creative, worthwhile.



What kinds of claims do researchers seek to make?

- Some claims are more likely to come from quantitative / quantitative studies.
- Some claims only make a comment about that specific set of research participants.
- Some claims suggest limited generalisability.



Your project ...

- What kinds of claims could you make?
- What kinds of claims could you NOT make?


Making modest but accurate claims

- **The present study suggests that ...**
- **Participants reported that ...**
- **This is consistent with international research** (reference) that has shown ...
- **Research participants often talked about the experience of ...**
- **Research participants' descriptions of themselves suggest that ...**



Who are your audience?

- Examiners and supervisors
- Peers / colleagues at conferences and research seminars
- Government bodies
- Employers
- Practitioners
- Special interest groups



How can you write for your audience?

- Make it appealing!
- Make it accessible!
- Make it useful!



How will participants feel if they read what you write?

- Reflect on what you have promised participants
- Reflect on whether the participants expected something from you
- Reflect on any unspoken understandings
- What will you do about this?



Writing up sensitive material

- People might have shared personal things
- The topic might be sensitive
- The data might reveal something sensitive
- Maybe there are some things that cannot be reported ...?



Dissemination

You could:

- Send copies of the whole report
- Send copies of the executive summary
- Put key research findings on a website
- Run a workshop
- Present a seminar, lecture, conference paper
- Write a brief article