



# Hovedoppgaven: Kvalitative prosjekt

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# Examples of journals that publish qualitative research

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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 ...

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- 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?



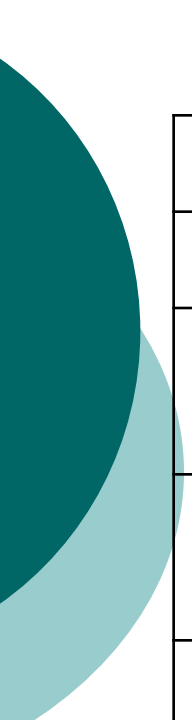
# Problems?

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- 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



<b>Months</b>	<b>Activities</b>
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



<b>Months</b>	<b>Activities</b>
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

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- 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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?

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

# Engaging participants in qualitative research

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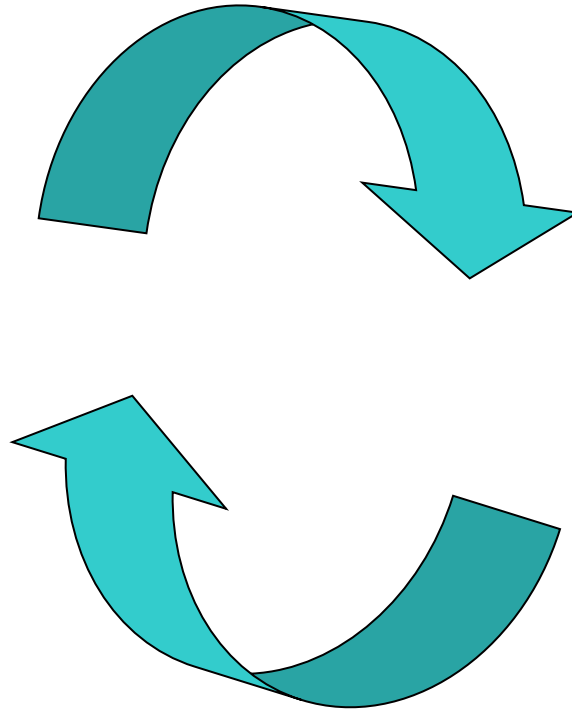




# *Engaging with research participants' worlds*

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**Developing  
research  
questions**



**Engaging with  
participants'  
worlds**



# What questions do you need to address?

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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



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Begin with a picture of where you are  
going!


Imagine your completed thesis!



# What will structure your write-up?

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



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

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



# What is innovative about your study?

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- 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?

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- 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 ...

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



## Making modest but accurate claims

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- **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?

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



# How can you write for your audience?

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



# How will participants feel if they read what you write?

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- 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

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- 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

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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