

Qualitative Data Analysis

Dr Charles Anderson

Content

Building on from the *Nature of Enquiry* course this module explores the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research and introduces students to the diversity of practice that is subsumed under the title of 'qualitative research'. It also engages with the practicalities of designing, implementing, analysing and writing up a research study which is based on a qualitative research approach. A key concern throughout the module is to encourage participants to connect up general issues and framing perspectives with the day-to-day practice of carrying out qualitative research. To take ahead this aim, and to allow for a more interactive form of teaching, participants are asked over the course of the module to engage in a number of small investigative or analytical exercises that provide a focus for discussion. Participants are also encouraged to develop the mind set of close attention to the effects of their own world view on their approach to designing a qualitative study, interacting with research participants and analysing qualitative data. Specific content areas covered include:

Exploring the nature of qualitative research and qualitative data

Interviewing

Analysing Documents

Observation

Case studies

Ethnography

Generalisability

Procedures and processes in analysis:

and computer-assisted qualitative data analysis

Validity and Reliability

Teaching

10 x 2 hours = 20 hours

These will feature short tutor presentations with guided discussion

Assessment

Either a report of 4,000 words on a small research project carried out by the module participant her or himself which gives close attention to methodological issues and qualitative research procedures

Or an essay of 4,000 words which engages with central themes of the module.

Core texts

Dey, I (1993) Qualitative Data Analysis. London: Routledge

May, T. (2001). Social Research: Issues, Methods and Process. (3rd edition) Buckingham: Open University Press.

May T. (ed) (2002). Qualitative Research in Action. London: Sage.

- Ozga J (2000) Policy Research in Educational Settings: Contested Terrain. Buckingham: Open University Press
- Pring R (2000) Philosophy of Educational Research. London: Continuum.
- Silverman D (1993). Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analysing Talk, text and Interaction. London: Sage
- Silverman D (2000) Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook. London: Sage.