

Week 1: Introduction

Chapter 1 & 2

Qualitative vs Quantitative

QUALITATIVE

- Small sample size is not a limitation of Qualitative
- Inability to generalise is not a limitation of Qualitative
- Credibility: (don't have reliability/validity) true picture being painted by research results, true reflection of what has happened
- Dependability: enough detail given about study to allow repetition
- Transferability: results in data can be applied to another setting – same sort of methodology/same people, it is likely you will get similar results in another setting
- Interpretivist approach: behaviour influenced by context, impacted by cultural, historical, political and social norms
- reality can be different for each individual depending on understanding/experiences of the world
- nature of data you're seeking to identify is subjective rather than objective (social rather than physical)

QUANTITATIVE

- Positivist approach: idea that behaviour can be measured objectively (however, human behaviour is not constant and is influenced by context)
- Reliability, validity, experiment, compare, generalise, small sample size as limitation (these words are not used in qualitative)

Assumptions of research

- **Ontological:** how do you view reality? Is there one or multiple?
- **Epistemological:** what is the relationship between the researcher and participants?
 - Qual: interviews – get to know participants, build relationships, research may impact results
 - Quan: try keep distance from participants so data isn't biased
- **Axiological:** role of values in research
 - Qual: understand own attitudes/values/experiences are going to influence research, questions, analysis. Need to acknowledge this
 - Quan: don't let own ideas or beliefs influence data
- **Rhetorical:** role of language
- **Methodological:** how the research is framed

Critical realism

- Philosophical viewpoint important to understanding some qualitative approaches to research. Critical realist does not deny existence of physical world but questions the ability of social scientific data in reflecting the real world

Week 2: Theoretical Frameworks; Rigour; Ethics

Chapter 17

Ethics

- *Formal ethics:* have to abide

- *Informal ethics*: arise when you are conducting/planning research
- Qualitative researchers more interested in their participants, seek to maintain human dignity
- **Informed consent**: written document to potential participants regarding anticipated risks. Includes information letter (retained by participant) and consent form (retained by researcher)
 - Must have mental capacity to make decision to participate
 - Must have enough time and privacy to allow assessment of participation
 - Disclosure enough information
 - Must not have threat or consequence of not participating
 - Must outline the way data will be reported (confidentiality)
 - Withdrawal rights
 - Capacity to consent: mental, children/disability, cultural (language, power differentials)
 - **Information letter**: how participants were found, statement of ethics approval, what is involved, length of time, aims of research, future, no obligation, withdrawal, recording intentions, other contacts
 - **Consent form**: no identifying information, withdrawal rights, recording intentions, other contacts, their signature, data storage (during and after), destroying data (when, how, who), risk assessment and management, benefits and risks, dissemination of results

General ethical principles for Qualitative research

1. Beneficence and nonmaleficence: psychological work should benefit the clients
2. Fidelity and responsibility: work of psychologist involves relationship of trust with other people
3. Integrity: accuracy, honesty and truthfulness: integrity should be manifested in every part of psychologist's professional life
4. Equity: equal access to psychology's benefits: be aware of potential/actual biases to ensure all experience fair and just practices
5. Respect for people's rights and dignity: privacy, confidentiality and self-determination

Incentives

- Attract a different pool of participants
- Use incentives to increase likelihood of participation
- Comparable to the inconvenience of participating (travel/parking)
- Gift vouchers, refreshments, raffle
- Large incentives = unethical if encourage to take risks

Confidentiality

- Pseudonyms
- Other identifying details
- Privacy: participant has right to divulge details to you or not, right not to share information
- Confidentiality: you know who the participants are but do not share this information
- Anonymity: even researcher does not know the details of the participants (e.g. online surveys)

Deception

- Intentionally given false / misleading information
- Disclosure: disclose necessary details
- Debriefing: full disclosure of withheld details