Being Qualitative

- Introductions / Ground rules
- Outline / Overview
- assumptions
- O&E stuff
- using theory
- asking the right questions
- coping with contestation
session one
Being Qualitative
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- Introductions / Ground rules
- Outline / Overview
- assumptions
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Introductions

You  Me

Ground rules
- ask, question, critique
- no dumb questions
- apply to your own work
- no right answers
Introductions
Ground rules

- ask, question, critique
- no dumb questions
- apply to your own work
- no right answers
Approaching qualitative research

Issues

common features of qualitative research
- findings in everyday language
- meaning in context
- study of the real world
- primarily inductive

what questions?
- experience, practice
- NOT causality

assumptions
- theory, approach/topic
- realism, relativism
- induction / deduction
- description / interpretation
- generality (sampling)
- politics, criticality
- reflexivity
Approaching qualitative research
Issues
what questions?

- experience, practice
- NOT causality
common features of qualitative research

• findings in everyday language
• meaning in context
• study of the real world
• primarily inductive
assumptions

• theory: approach/topic
• realism - relativism
• induction / deduction
• description - interpretation
• generality (sampling)
• politics, criticality
• reflexivity
assumptions

the nature of the world

the way we can know the world

what framework we are using

where are we in the research?
assumptions
the nature of the world
ontology
the way we can know the world
epistemology
what framework we are using
where are we in the research?
reflexivity
Epistemology

Objectivism

meaning is in the subject

Social constructionism

meaning is BETWEEN the subject and object

- is there a real world?
- interpretations always relative?
- are social constructionism only applicable to the social world?

knowledge is
- constructed
- historically, socially and culturally located
- practice of interpretation

- is there a critical realism?
epistemology
Objectivism
(positivism?)

meaning is IN the object

scientific method
the received view
the 'real' objective world
independent of the observer
lawful regularity

qual example:
barriers to health screening
Objectivism
(positivism?)
meaning is IN the object
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qual example:
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Social constructionism

meaning is BETWEEN the subject and object

knowledge is
- constructed
- provisional
- historically, socially and culturally located

is there a real world?
critical realism

are interpretations always relative?
rigour, critical realism

does social constructionism only apply to the social world?

qual example:
social practices of medication use
Social constructionism
meaning is BETWEEN the subject and object

knowledge is constructed
knowledge is
  • constructed
  • provisional
  • historically, socially and culturally located
does social constructionism only apply to the social world?
is there a real world?
critical realism
ontology again?
are interpretations always relative?

ingour, critical realism
qual example:
social practices of medication use
Subjectivism

meaning is IN the subject
(imposed on the object)

the object has no direct meaning:
It may be imagined, unconscious

qual example:
descriptive account of illness experience
Subjectivism
meaning is IN the subject
(imposed on the object)
the object has no direct meaning; it may be imagined, unconscious
qual example:
descriptive account of illness experience
epistemology
Social constructionism
why you don’t need a theory (someone else’s theory)

theory for what?
- frameworks for research approach (e.g., feminism)
- interpreting data (e.g., theoretical constructs)
- theory (noun) versus theorising (verb)
theory
why you don't need a theory (someone else's theory)

theory for what?
- frameworks for research approach (e.g., feminism)
- interpreting data (e.g., theoretical constructs)
theory for what?

- frameworks for research approach (e.g., feminism)
- interpreting data (e.g., theoretical constructs)
- theory (noun) versus theorising (verb)
asking questions
making assumptions
keeping it aligned

what we do determines
what we can know

Four questions underlying research
what methods do we want to use?
what methodology governs this choice?
what theoretical framework lies behind this?
what epistemology informs this?

but actually, we need to turn that upside down

methods

methodology

theoretical approach

epistemology

example:
- constructivism
- phenomenology
- structuralism
- critical discourse analysis

example:
- post-structuralism
- discourse analysis
- content analysis

example:
- feminism
- hermeneutics
- ethnography
- participant observation
- interviews
asking questions
making assumptions
keeping it aligned
what we do determines what we can know
Four questions underlying research
what methods do we want to use?
what methodology governs this choice?
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what epistemology informs this?
do determines
we can know

but actually, we need to turn that upside down
epistemology

theoretical approach

methodology

methods
example:

- objectivism
- positivism
- survey research
- survey methods, statistics
example:

- constructionism
- symbolic interactionism
- ethnography
- participant observation
example:

- constructionism
- feminism
- critical discourse analysis
- document analysis
example:

- constructionism
- hermeneutics
- phenomenology
- interviews
**exercise**
read example and determine
assumptions made by researchers

**review**
write down two key things
you have learned

Key reference:
Crotty, M. (1999). Fundamentals of
social research. London: Sage
exercise
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review
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Key reference: