

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH & EVALUATION METHODS

FOURTH EDITION

Integrating Theory and Practice

Michael Quinn Patton



Los Angeles | London | New Delhi
Singapore | Washington DC

Brief Contents

Preface	x
About the Author	xvi
List of Exhibits	xviii

Part 1

Framing Qualitative Inquiry: Theory Informs Practice, Practice Informs Theory	1
--	----------

Chapter 1. The Nature, Niche, Value, and Fruit of Qualitative Inquiry	2
Chapter 2. Strategic Themes in Qualitative Inquiry	45
Chapter 3. Variety of Qualitative Inquiry Frameworks: Paradigmatic, Philosophical, and Theoretical Orientations	85
Chapter 4. Practical and Actionable Qualitative Applications	169

Part 2

Qualitative Designs and Data Collection	243
--	------------

Chapter 5. Designing Qualitative Studies	244
Chapter 6. Fieldwork Strategies and Observation Methods	327
Chapter 7. Qualitative Interviewing	421

Part 3

Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting	519
--	------------

Chapter 8. Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation	520
Chapter 9. Enhancing the Quality and Credibility of Qualitative Studies	652

References	744
Author Index	772
Subject Index	787

Contents

Preface	x
About the Author	xvi
List of Exhibits	xviii

Part I

Framing Qualitative Inquiry: Theory Informs Practice, Practice Informs Theory

1

Chapter 1. The Nature, Niche, Value, and Fruit of Qualitative Inquiry	2
Book Overview and Chapter Preview	2
Module 1 How Qualitative Inquiry Contributes to Our Understanding of the World	3
Module 2 What Makes Qualitative Data <i>Qualitative</i>	14
Module 3 Making Methods Decisions	21
Module 4 The Fruit of Qualitative Methods: Chapter Summary and Conclusion	36
Application Exercises	44
Chapter 2. Strategic Themes in Qualitative Inquiry	45
Chapter Preview	45
Module 5 Strategic Design Principles for Qualitative Inquiry	48
Module 6 Strategic Principles Guiding Data Collection and Fieldwork	54
Module 7 Strategic Principles for Qualitative Analysis and Reporting Findings	63
Module 8 Integrating the 12 Strategic Qualitative Principles in Practice: Chapter Summary and Conclusion	75
Application Exercises	83
Chapter 3. Variety of Qualitative Inquiry Frameworks: Paradigmatic, Philosophical, and Theoretical Orientations	85
Chapter Preview	85
Module 9 Understanding the Paradigms Debate: <i>Quants</i> Versus <i>Quals</i>	87
Module 10 Introduction to Qualitative Inquiry Frameworks	96
Module 11 Ethnography and Autoethnography	100
Module 12 Positivism, Postpositivism, Empiricism, and Foundationalist Epistemologies	105
Module 13 Grounded Theory and Realism	109
Module 14 Phenomenology and Heuristic Inquiry	115

Module 15	Social Constructionism, Constructivism, Postmodernism, and Narrative Inquiry	121
Module 16	Ethnomethodology, Semiotics, Symbolic Interaction, and Hermeneutics	132
Module 17	Systems Theory and Complexity Theory	139
Module 18	Pragmatism, Generic Qualitative Inquiry, and Utilization-Focused Evaluation	152
Module 19	Patterns and Themes Across Inquiry Frameworks: Chapter Summary and Conclusions	158
	Application Exercises	168
Chapter 4. Practical and Actionable Qualitative Applications		169
	Chapter Preview	170
Module 20	Practical Purposes, Concrete Questions, and Actionable Answers: Illuminating and Enhancing Quality	171
Module 21	Program Evaluation Applications: Focus on Outcomes	178
Module 22	Specialized Qualitative Evaluation Applications	187
Module 23	Evaluating Program Models and Theories of Change, and Evaluation Models Especially Aligned With Qualitative Methods	200
Module 24	Interactive and Participatory Qualitative Applications	213
Module 25	Democratic Evaluation, Indigenous Research and Evaluation, Capacity Building, and Cultural Competence	223
Module 26	Special Methodological Applications	229
Module 27	A Vision of the Utility of Qualitative Methods: Chapter Summary and Conclusion	237
	Application Exercises	242
Part 2	Qualitative Designs and Data Collection	243
Chapter 5. Designing Qualitative Studies		244
	Chapter Preview	244
Module 28	Design Thinking: Questions Derive From Purpose, Design Answers Questions	246
Module 29	Data Collection Decisions	255
Module 30	Purposeful Sampling and Case Selection: Overview of Strategies and Options	264
Module 31	Single-Significant-Case Sampling as a Design Strategy	273
Module 32	Comparison-Focused Sampling Options	277
Module 33	Group Characteristics Sampling Strategies and Options	283
Module 34	Concept and Theoretical Sampling Strategies and Options	288
Module 35	Instrumental-Use Multiple-Case Sampling	295
Module 36	Sequential and Emergence-Driven Sampling Strategies and Options	298
Module 37	Analytically Focused Sampling	302
Module 38	Mixed, Stratified, and Nested Purposeful Sampling Strategies	305

Module 39	Information-Rich Cases	308
Module 40	Sample Size for Qualitative Designs	311
Module 41	Mixed-Methods Designs	316
Module 42	Qualitative Design Chapter Summary and Conclusion: Methods Choices and Decisions	322
	Application Exercises	326
Chapter 6. Fieldwork Strategies and Observation Methods		327
	Chapter Preview	327
Module 43	The Power of Direct Observation	329
Module 44	Variations in Observational Methods	336
Module 45	Variations in Duration of Observations and Site Visits: From Rapid Reconnaissance to Longitudinal Studies Over Years	345
Module 46	Variations in Observational Focus and Summary of Dimensions Along Which Fieldwork Varies	354
Module 47	What to Observe: Sensitizing Concepts	358
Module 48	Integrating <i>What to Observe</i> With <i>How to Observe</i>	364
Module 49	Unobtrusive Observations and Indicators; and Documents and Archival Fieldwork	375
Module 50	Observing Oneself: Reflexivity and Creativity, and Review of Fieldwork Dimensions	381
Module 51	Doing Fieldwork: The Data Gathering Process	387
Module 52	Stages of Fieldwork: Entry Into the Field	394
Module 53	Routinization of Fieldwork: The Dynamics of the Second Stage	400
Module 54	Bringing Fieldwork to a Close	405
Module 55	The Observer and What Is Observed: Unity, Separation, and Reactivity	410
Module 56	Chapter Summary and Conclusion: Guidelines for Fieldwork	415
	Application Exercises	420
Chapter 7. Qualitative Interviewing		421
	Chapter Preview	422
Module 57	The Interview Society: Diversity of Applications	423
Module 58	Distinguishing Interview Approaches and Types of Interviews	432
Module 59	Question Options and Skilled Question Formulation	444
Module 60	Rapport, Neutrality, and the Interview Relationship	457
Module 61	Interviewing Groups and Cross-Cultural Interviewing	475
Module 62	Creative Modes of Qualitative Inquiry	484
Module 63	Ethical Issues and Challenges in Qualitative Interviewing	495
Module 64	Personal Reflections on Interviewing, and Chapter Summary and Conclusion	503
	Application Exercises	517

Chapter 8. Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation	520
Chapter Preview	520
Module 65 Establishing a Strong Foundation for Qualitative Analysis: Covering the Basics	521
Module 66 Thick Description and Case Studies: The Bedrock of Qualitative Analysis	533
Module 67 Qualitative Analysis Approaches: Identifying Patterns and Themes	541
Module 68 The Intellectual and Operational Work of Analysis	553
Module 69 Logical and Matrix Analyses, and Synthesizing Qualitative Studies	560
Module 70 Interpreting Findings, Determining Substantive Significance, Elucidating Phenomenological Essence, and Hermeneutic Interpretation	570
Module 71 Causal Explanation Through Qualitative Analysis	582
Module 72 New Analysis Directions: Contribution Analysis, Participatory Analysis, and Qualitative Counterfactuals	596
Module 73 Writing Up and Reporting Findings, Including Using Visuals	603
Module 74 Special Analysis and Reporting Issues: Mixed Methods, Focused Communication, Principles-Focused Report Exemplar, and Creativity	620
Module 75 Chapter Summary and Conclusion, Plus Case Study Exhibits	630
Application Exercises	650
Chapter 9. Enhancing the Quality and Credibility of Qualitative Studies	652
Chapter Preview	652
Module 76 Analytical Processes for Enhancing Credibility: Systematically Engaging and Questioning the Data	653
Module 77 Four Triangulation Processes for Enhancing Credibility	661
Module 78 Alternative and Competing Criteria for Judging the Quality of Qualitative Inquiries, Part 1: Universal Criteria and Traditional Scientific Research Versus Constructivist Criteria	677
Module 79 Alternative and Competing Criteria, Part 2: Artistic, Participatory, Critical Change, Systems, Pragmatic, and Mixed Criteria	687
Module 80 Credibility of the Inquirer	700
Module 81 Generalizations, Extrapolations, Transferability, Principles, and Lessons Learned	710
Module 82 Enhancing the Credibility and Utility of Qualitative Inquiry by Addressing Philosophy of Science Issues	722
Application Exercises	742
References	744
Author Index	772
Subject Index	787