



When Qualitative Method meets Art

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+ Aims of this workshop

- Part of the 'Creative and Performing Arts Research' seminar series sponsored by GSBRC
- Acknowledging the power of the arts in the changing world of research and practice through discussion and conversation
- A brief introduction into the role qualitative methodologies play in arts research
- Exploring the nature of art-research methodologies in practice



+ About the Presenter

- Dance/Choreographic background
- Qualitative Methodologist
- Many artistic interests – writing, music, arts philanthropy etc.
- Research projects include:
 - Creative Lives Project
 - Arts-based representation of the workplace
 - Rewards/acknowledgement and the Arts



+ Why this discussion?

‘Beyond the limits of quantitative conclusions and into the realm of implicit, person-centred wisdom.’ (Leavy 2015)

+ Why this discussion cont.....

- A need for holistic approach to research processes that emphasizes connects between epistemology, theory and methods.
- To help cope with the publish/perish dilemma due to limited publication/curatorial outlets/opportunities and diminished funding opportunities.
- To identify where the support needs/knowledge gaps are regarding qualitative research methodologies are



+ Discussion Point 1.

1. Form groups and introduce yourselves.
2. Discuss the 2 questions on the worksheet:
 - ◆ What is the focus of your research?
 - ◆ What is your knowledge of qualitative methods?
3. Come back to the whole group and discuss.



+ Brief Overview of Qualitative Approaches

- Interpretive Methodology – focus on meaning and understanding
- Data includes words, images, objects, discourses etc. – not numerical representation
- Rich and thick data
- Inductive analytical approaches
- Narrative forms of academic representation
- Major methods include observational studies, discourse/content analysis and ethnographies

+ What Qualitative Approaches are not...

- Exclusive expertise in software data analysis packages – these will help organise your data but they will not analyse by themselves
- Exclusively creative/artistic practice
- Inferior or secondary to any other method





for Arts-Based Research

A/r/tography
 Alternative forms of representation
 Aesthetically based research
 Aesthetic research practice
 Art as inquiry
 Art practice as research
 Art-based enquiry
 Art-based inquiry
 Art-based research
 Artistic inquiry
 Arts-based research (ABR)
 Arts based social research (ABSR)
 Arts-based qualitative inquiry
 Arts in qualitative research
 Arts-based educational research (ABER)
 Arts-based health research (ABHR)
 Arts-based research practices
 Arts-informed inquiry
 Arts-informed research
 Critical arts-based inquiry
 Living inquiry
 Performative inquiry
 Poetic science
 Practice-based research
 Research-based art (RBA)
 Research-based practice



Discussion Point 2.

1. Within your area of practice/research, what are the key challenges you face regarding the conduct of research overall?
2. What have you done to address these challenges?



+ The connections between Qualitative Methodology and Artistic Creative Practice

- Synergies between qualitative and artistic practice/research
- Both are holistic and dynamic practices, involving reflection, description, problem formulation and solving, intuition and creativity.
- Both are iterative processes



+ Arts-Based Research: The way forward?

- Recognizes that art can convey truths/bring about awareness
- Recognizes that the arts is critical in achieving self/other knowledge
- Values preverbal ways of knowing
- Includes multiple ways of knowing such as sensory, kinesthetic and imaginary



+ References

- Leavy, P. (2015) 2nd Ed, Method meets Art: Arts-based Research Practice, Guilford Press, New York.
- Chilton, G. and Leavy, P. (2014) Arts-Based Research Practice: Merging social research and the creative arts. In P. Leavy (Ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research, pp. 403-422, Oxford University Press, New York.