

Developing Conceptual Frameworks for Qualitative Research

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Other Research Guides

- How to write a literature review;
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Methods & Methodology
- Inductive & Deductive Approaches to Research

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Starting Point:

Research Objective

- What is the purpose and scope of your research?
- What is the rationale for your study?

Once you have established the objective(s) you can start thinking about the methodology .

Before Deciding on the Research Approach & Methods...

Methodology

- The process of fully interrogating the values and assumptions that influence the study.
- This is a process of justification for using particular research methods.
- It will help you decide on the right research approach.

Inductive or Deductive?

INDUCTIVE

- Starts with no preconceived ideas on the findings.
- Concurrent collection & analysis of data.
- Seeks to generate new theories.

DEDUCTIVE

- Starts with a hypothesis.
- Uses research questions to guide the study.
- Aims to test existing theories.

Underlying Assumptions...

Research Paradigm

- Refers to underlying assumptions of research: e.g.
ontological (being, reality),
epistemological (construction of knowledge -
creation, acquisition & communication)
methodological (research strategy) .

Examples: critical, interpretative, scientific .

Examples of Research Paradigms...

- **Transformative Emancipatory Paradigm** : give voice to marginalised groups & make them 'subjects' of research, as opposed to 'objects' .
- **Interpretative Paradigm** : reality is subjective and individually constructed .
- **Critical Paradigm** : reality is shaped by social, political, cultural, economic, ethnic & gender values and therefore socially constructed .

Who Are the Subjects of Your Research?

- Are the subjects marginalised as a group? (e.g. on the basis of gender, race, sexuality, age, religion or intersecting factors)?
- It is important to adopt an appropriate paradigm and theoretical framework that fits with the research objective and research subjects.

Theoretical Framework...

Based on the researcher's theoretical perspective (philosophical assumptions, view of the world & social life) Examples :

Critical Race Theory (racism is deeply ingrained in society to the extent that it has become normalised and taken for granted),

Black Feminism (rooted in the historical experiences of Black women, who experience triple oppression based on race, class and gender - also known as Black Feminist Standpoint Theory) .

Conceptual Framework

- This provides the infrastructure for the entire research project .
- It is the researcher's approach to exploring the research problem .
- It groups together ideas and theories into an overarching framework.



Good Luck With
Your Research!