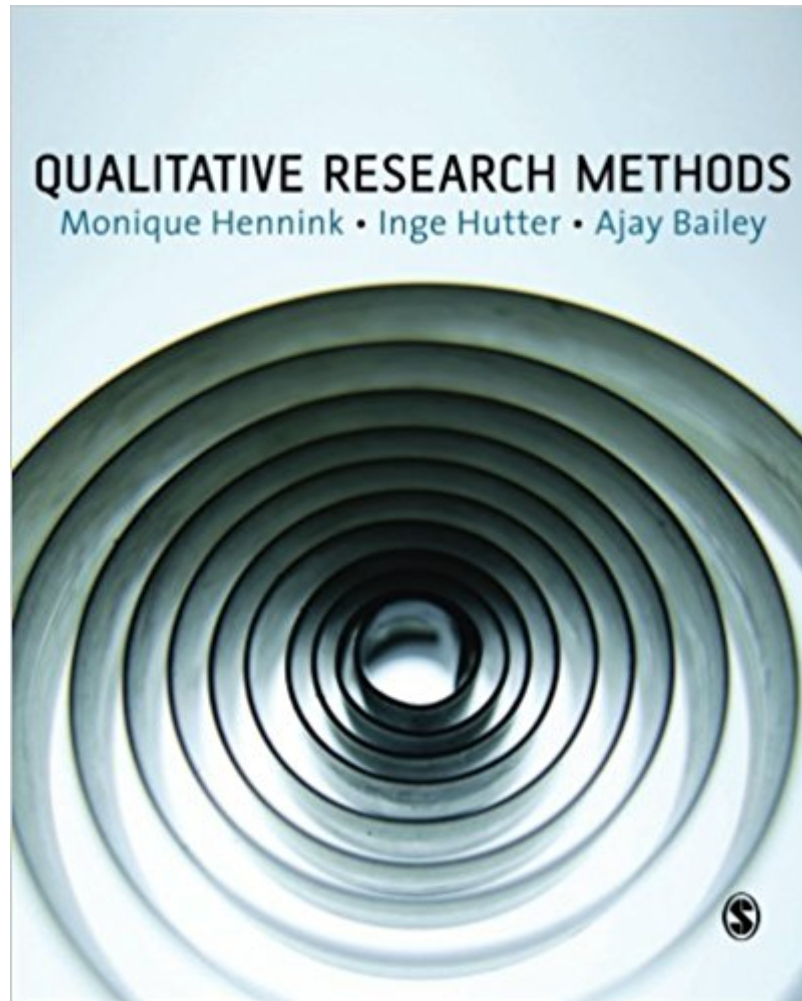




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Qualitative Research Methods



Synopsis

This comprehensive text takes a practical approach that mirrors the path that students follow in conducting a research project. The book is based on the authors' highly successful multidisciplinary qualitative methods workshops, which have been conducted for over a decade. They introduce a 'qualitative research cycle' that leads students through the selection of appropriate methods, the collection of data, and the transformation of findings into a finished project. The book provides a clear explanation of the nature of qualitative research and its key concepts.

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Customer Reviews

Hennink et al. write for novice and accomplished qualitative researchers (and everyone in-between)...Qualitative Research Methods is an accessible, readable how-to book. It can be recommended as a reference book for those approaching a new qualitative project. The in-chapter descriptions and the exercises and questions at the end of each chapter provide easy, yet necessary tasks for researchers to complete during each stage of their projects Christine L. Patton
The Weekly Qualitative Report Hennink, Hutter, and Bailey's work is about actually 'doing' qualitative research. All the key topics are covered, and sensible 'warnings' offered to avoid some of the usual data collection and analysis traps of ethnographic work...the book is accessible, comprehensive and well illustrated both textually and graphically. More importantly and necessarily, it stresses the importance of the theoretical stance taken and its influence upon methodology Dr Ron Iphofen
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is well structured with a concise style, and the authors make good use of case studies, tables and exercises...New and established researchers will benefit from this book, as well as students wanting an insight into qualitative research. The passion that these authors feel about their subject comes through strongly in the writing.

Ian Birkinshaw
Nursing Standard Qualitative Research Methods by Hennink, Hutter and Bailey however, provide qualitative researchers with a modern grasp on qualitative research methods. Hennink et al. explain 'how to do' qualitative research using a cyclical process, divided into 3 interconnected phases or cycles... The authors' innovative approach is in contrast to most qualitative research textbooks that focus on qualitative research using the familiar, linear research process. In addition, the presentation of this current book will help apprentice qualitative researchers to appreciate the different stages of the qualitative research cycle... Overall, the chapters are logical and focus on key elements of qualitative research. In an added attempt to support their readers the authors provide excellent examples of directed reading. The use of 'exercises' and 'key points' reiterates the main points gleaned from each chapter.

Anita Duffy
Nurse Education in Practice I was very impressed both with the depth and the clarity of information presented by Hennink and her colleagues. This book has a clear and logical structure. It insightfully discusses both the theoretical and epistemological issues that arise at all stages of qualitative research, as well as the very practical application of these methods. The chapters contain detailed guidance, hints and tips on how to use the methods without the text feeling heavy or over-whelming. The 'Evaluating Quality' section at the end of each chapter provides a useful summary and check-list, not only for designing one's own research project, but also for critiquing the quality and validity of other published qualitative studies... This is an excellent new text book for budding qualitative researchers.

Rebecca Langford
Critical Public Health

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I am currently working on my Anthropology Major. This book did help me understand how to do research in an effective way. The book can be boring at times but there are a few chapters that truly are interesting, for me it was Chapter 8.

Great book

This is a great book for beginning qualitative researchers. Organized to take you clearly through each step of preparing for qualitative research-- this is a great tool.

perfect

It is meeting all my expectations, explains things well, and clearly. Worth the money and it is easy to read and understand.

Great Book!

I am a senior researcher who teaches research methodology at the advance level at my university. Looking for a new text book I stumbled upon the newly published "Qualitative Research Methods" by Hennink, Hutter and Bailey, and having read it I find that I quite like it. Chances are I will use this book for next year's class. Unlike most other books on qualitative methods, which typically have a strong focus on data collecting methods, this book covers every phase from problem formulation to the writing-up. This is achieved by dividing the material and the research process into three interlinked cycles; design, ethnography and analysis. The design phase includes the initial literature review, selection of theoretical framing and context, and the research question. This phase, as well as the other two, is referred to as cyclic, meaning that the various activities affect one another in an iterative way. The research approach is otherwise only too often described in a linear manner, and I find the cyclic description used in this book be much closer to reality. I think students will benefit from understanding this. Next comes the ethnographic cycle. Here the authors cover data collection by explaining in-depth interviews, focus groups and observations. They also discuss participant recruiting quite thoroughly but the part on ethical issues is unnecessary weak. In particular, I miss discussions about overt versus covert field work and insider/outsider considerations. The analytic cycle, finally, describes how to develop theory by coding, comparing and conceptualising data. The authors here adopt an explicitly stated inductive approach to theory development, which gives the reader a kick-start to grounded theory. The authors do, however, explain that existing deductive theories cannot - and should not! - be ignored since the new theory must interplay with existing knowledge. In fact, they suggest that the contribution need not be a brand new theory; theory development may also extend or modify existing theory or the contexts to which it applies. I think data analysis, which often is missing in other text books, is a strong chapter, but maybe a bit over the top for undergraduate students. One of the strengths with this book is its many useful examples that illustrate points made in the (theoretical) text. For students or others who are new to (qualitative) research these cases are likely to be very useful. However, the book claims to be

multidisciplinary and the authors are indeed from different fields, but I find that health sociology dominates quite heavily (many examples involve HIV) and it might be a bit of a challenge for students in management or technology use to map these examples to their own context. Reading the text you quickly notice that it is firmly grounded in the authors' own experiences. This is obviously also a strength since the authors know what they are writing about. The drawback is that the authors' personal preferences come off quite strongly as *the* way to do qualitative research, and although there is nothing wrong with their presentation, as a teacher I feel that I need to show alternative ways too. To do that I need to bring additional material to my course. This is not a big problem since there is plenty of complementary stuff available and the authors themselves provide many useful pointers in the bibliography sections. I just want to point out that this is a potential problem if you plan to use this as textbook for self studies. The authors use the umbrella term Ethnography to bundle data collecting methods such as interviews and observations. Other umbrella terms that might be mentioned in a book on qualitative research methods are Cased study and Action research but these not mentioned, nor do the authors say anything about Critical research. I guess you can't squeeze everything into one book. In sum, this seems like a useful book and I will probably use it next time a give my course.

As a physician researcher, I was looking for an easy-to-read text to learn qualitative research methods. This book is great. A lot of other texts I browsed through used jargon, made assumptions about your knowledge of a particular field, or frankly did not make sense to me. This book describes the methodology in plain language and gives practical advice. I also enjoy the many case studies that are included in the book - they give flavor to the text.

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