



Editorial

Qualitative and mixed research methods have been reaching important achievements throughout the academic world. However, there are still open challenges for multidisciplinary coherence, methodological focus, rigor and systematization towards the holistic integration and quality of research. The World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR2021) aims at being an important international discussion forum that sheds light on these and many other challenges in the area. The 5th WCQR took place from 20 to 22 January 2021, in online version, motivated by the COVID-19 pandemic. For WCQR2021, the submission of scientific works was encouraged and focused on i) Qualitative Research in Health (emphasis on the processes of research in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Geriatrics, Gerontology, Psychology, etc.); ii) Qualitative Research in Education (emphasis on the processes of research in various areas of Higher Education, Basic Education, Assessment, Curriculum, Teaching, Teaching of Sciences, Languages, History, Technology, etc.); iii) Qualitative Research in Social Science (emphasis on the processes of research in the fields of Communication, Linguistics, Sociology, Anthropology, Business Administration, Marketing, Management and Economics, Political Science, etc.); iv) Qualitative Research in Engineering and Technology (emphasis on the research processes in the areas of Computer Science, Information Systems, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, civil Engineering and Engineering Education).

The 5th WCQR topics were organized under two major dimensions:

A) Fundamentals

1. Rationale and Paradigms of Qualitative Research (theoretical studies, critical reflection about epistemological, ontological and axiological dimensions).
2. Systematization of approaches with Qualitative Studies (literature review, integrating results, aggregation studies, meta-analysis, meta-analysis of qualitative meta-synthesis, meta-ethnography).
3. Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research (emphasis on research processes that build on mixed methodologies but prioritizing qualitative approaches).

B) Operationalization

1. Data Analysis Types (content analysis, discourse analysis, thematic analysis, narrative analysis, etc.).
2. Innovative processes of Qualitative Data Analysis (design analysis, articulation and triangulation of different sources of data – images, audio, video).
3. Qualitative Research in Web Context (e-Research, virtual ethnography, interaction analysis, internet latent corpus, etc.).
4. Qualitative Analysis with the Support of Specific Software (usability studies, user experience, the impact of software on the quality of research and analysis).

Besides regular paper presentations, WCQR2021 held three plenary sessions:

- **“Nurses as a drive of change for better healthcare”**, presented by Adelaida Zabalegui, from the Barcelona University (ES);
- **“Re-thinking Qualitative Research Data through Qualitative Secondary Analysis”**, presented by Kahryn Hughes, from the University of Leeds (UK);
- **“Methodological Innovation or Analytical Creativity? The New Practice-Based Typology of Narrative Analyses”**, presented by Grzegorz Bryda, from the Jagiellonian University (PL).

And four discussion panels:

- **“Feminist Participatory Action Research: A methodology of research and activism”**, by Trimita Chakma, from Asian Center for Women’s Studies, Ewha Womans University (South Korea), Naomi



Joy Godden, from School of Arts and Humanities, Edith Cowan University, (Australia) and Kate Phillips, from Plan International Australia (Australia);

- **“From qualitative methodology to mixed methods in systematic observation of physical activity and sport: An approach to quantizing”** by Teresa Anguera, from the Faculty of Psychology, Institute of Neurosciences, University of Barcelona (Spain), Oleguer Camerino, Marta Castañer, from the National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia (INEFC), Institute of Biomedical Research Foundation Dr. Pifarré (IRB Lleida), University of Lleida, Lleida (Spain) and Mariona Portell, from the Department of Psychobiology and Health Sciences Methodology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Cerdanyola del Vallés, (Spain);
- **“Qualitative Research on Preventing Gender-based Violence”** by Maria José Magalhães, Raquel Rodrigues, from Centre for Research and Intervention in Education, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Porto (Portugal), Susana Coimbra, from Centre for Psychology at the University of Porto, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Porto (Portugal) and Isabel Viana, from the Department of Curricular Studies and Educational Technology, Institute of Education of the University of Minho (Portugal);
- **“Data Collection Methods Through Online Modalities”** by David Lumowa, Arceli Rosario, Pavel Zubkov, from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Silang, Cavite (Philippines) and Safary Wa-Mbaleka, from the Adventist University of Africa, Nairobi, (Kenya).

Covering the broad scope of themes and issues of Qualitative Research, WCQR2021 aims to be a platform for the exchange of ideas, innovative solutions and enriching the knowledge of its participants. To that end, four workshops were carried out during in the event:

- **“Changing Research Practices for Covid-19”** by Melanie Nind, Andy Coverdale, from the National Centre for Research Methods / Education School, University of Southampton (UK) and Robert Meckin, from the National Centre for Research Methods / School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester (UK);
- **“Critical Self-Reflection in Qualitative Research”** by Anna CohenMiller, from the Graduate School of Education Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), and Nettie Boivin, from the Department of Applied Linguistics University of Jvaskaylä, Yvaskaylä (Finland);
- **“Qualitative Research while working from home using webQDA”** by Michael White, from the Research Office, Universidad Peruana Unión (Peru);
- **“Making the Most of Rich Data”** by Fiona Wiltshier, from Timberlake Consultants (UK).

Most of the abstracts are published as a complete paper and can be found in the volume 6 of the New Trends in Qualitative Research (NTQR), and Springer – Series Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing.

The entire process of research, review and editing is the work of several collaborators and specialists. Therefore, a very well deserved and sincere word of thanks to all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the organization of the 5th World Conference on Qualitative Research (attendants, authors, committees, partner institutions, sponsors, journals, etc.). Special thanks to the Barcelona University, for the collaboration in the organization of this event, especially considering the limitations created by the pandemic context. We believe that all these efforts are a form of promoting the expansion, integration and quality of qualitative research.

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