



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Edinburgh Research Explorer

### Mixed methods

**Citation for published version:**

Escobar, O 2022, Mixed methods. in SA Ercan, H Asenbaum , N Curato & RF Mendonça (eds), *Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy*. Oxford University Press, pp. 390-405.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192848925.003.0027>

**Digital Object Identifier (DOI):**

[10.1093/oso/9780192848925.003.0027](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192848925.003.0027)

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

**Published In:**

Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy

**General rights**

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

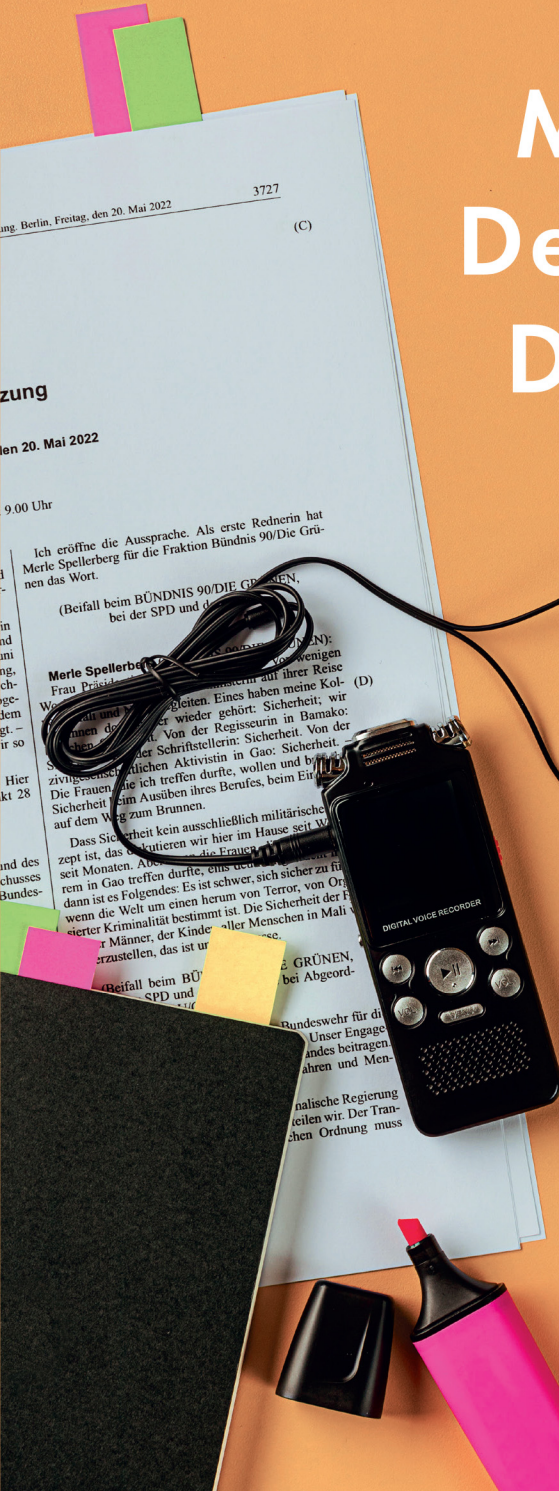
**Take down policy**

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact [openaccess@ed.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@ed.ac.uk) providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



OXFORD

# Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy



EDITED BY

Selen A. Ercan

Hans Asenbaum

Nicole Curato

Ricardo F. Mendonça

# Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy



# Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy

*Edited by*

Selen A. Ercan  
Hans Asenbaum  
Nicole Curato  
Ricardo F. Mendonça

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP,  
United Kingdom

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.  
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,  
and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of  
Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

© Oxford University Press 2022

The moral rights of the authors have been asserted

Impression: 1

Some rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in  
a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, for commercial purposes,  
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly  
permitted by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate  
reprographics rights organization.



This is an open access publication, available online and distributed under the terms of a  
Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial – No Derivatives 4.0  
International licence (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), a copy of which is available at  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of this licence  
should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

Published in the United States of America by Oxford University Press  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, United States of America

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Data available

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022936381

ISBN 978-0-19-284892-5 (hbk)

ISBN 978-0-19-287336-1 (pbk)

DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780192848925.001.0001

Printed and bound by  
CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Links to third party websites are provided by Oxford in good faith and  
for information only. Oxford disclaims any responsibility for the materials  
contained in any third party website referenced in this work.

# Foreword

Graham Smith

Deliberative democracy is a contested field of study. Its central practice of deliberation has a number of generally accepted features. One of these is the celebration of pluralism. Pluralism has value in both normative and epistemological terms. Deliberation rests on the presence, articulation, and consideration of a plurality of perspectives. Inclusion of the voices of the full diversity of social groups is a moral foundation of deliberative democracy. Equally, pluralism underpins collective judgement. Only through recognizing and understanding the perspectives of diverse others do we come to considered political judgements. Deliberative democracy requires openness and respect towards pluralism: to different ways of seeing the world and in the collective search for meaning.

If the practice of deliberation rests on openness and respect towards different ways of seeing and meaning making, the same holds true for the *study* of deliberation. We require openness and respect towards different ways of seeing our object of analysis. Just as pluralism is a foundational value for deliberative practice, so it should also be for research on deliberation.

Deliberative democracy is a political project that embraces conceptual analysis through practical action in varying forms. The questions we ask of that political project will vary. And the way we aim to answer those questions will vary too. Social science is at its worst when method comes before questions; when we dogmatically make sense of the world through only one methodological frame.

My own engagement with deliberative democracy as a field of study has generated a raft of questions, the answers to which have required the application of a range of methods. When troubled by the potential implications of the deliberative systems perspective undermining the core justification of deliberative democracy, tackling this question meant engaging in normative democratic theorizing. When questioning whether citizens' assemblies could tackle contentious issues such as Brexit, colleagues and I not only adopted a positivist experimental design, but also had to organize a national four-day assembly! When making sense of why the innovative NHS Citizen participatory system had failed, an interpretivist framework was embraced, enabling us to investigate the perspectives and motivations of different actors towards the legitimacy of the initiative. In these and other research enterprises, I have had the pleasure of working with colleagues with very different methodological orientations who have forced me to reflect on my own methodological preconditions and prejudices and, I believe, this has led to better work in the process. The main

lesson I have learned: we should not be afraid to venture across traditional lines of methodological contention.

Just as deliberative democracy as a political project demands openness, respect, and listening across difference, the same needs to be true for our application of different methodologies. Entertaining different methodological orientations and research methods takes us out of our comfort zones, challenges our prejudices, and makes us see the world in different ways. These are virtues of deliberative processes—and they should also be the virtues of the research community that is engaged in their study.

While this book is written primarily for researchers, I have a strong sense that it will prove valuable to the deliberative practitioner and activist communities as well. This is not simply because it provides important insights into how to evaluate and draw comparisons across discrete projects. Most practitioners I know have a broader set of concerns about how their work can be understood in more systemic terms: broader questions of citizen empowerment and civic renewal. The chapters in this collection may well inspire approaches to evaluation and reflection that respond to these systemic and political questions.

The embrace of methodological pluralism that underpins this impressive collection is the sign of a mature and reflexive community of practice. That this book project is directed from the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra should not be a surprise. This is a research centre that has promoted and sustained a pluralist orientation to the study of deliberative democracy. We should thank the Centre, editors, and contributors for modelling the kind of disposition towards methodology that is essential for good social science. Our object of study is a set of reflective practices. Such reflexivity in the application of research methods must define our collective project of sense-making.



# Acknowledgements

We started this book project in 2018 with the ambition of producing an open access resource that could spark a conversation about the diversity of methods used for researching deliberative democracy. This idea emerged from a workshop we held that year at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance University of Canberra, just before the International Political Science Association's conference in Brisbane, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra. We took the opportunity to entice colleagues to make a side trip to Canberra to discuss a scholarly issue that affected us all but had little systematic discussion so far: research methods in deliberative democracy.

After the workshop, the need for a publication compiling different methods in deliberative democracy research became clearer to us. Initially, we listed around ten widely used methods in the field. Yet, when we started to look at the scholarship from a methods perspective, our list continued to grow. We identified fifteen, then twenty, and finally thirty-one different methods that researchers use in their theoretical and empirical work on deliberative democracy.

What we imagined as a modest online publication that could help graduate students in their research on deliberative democracy, turned into a mammoth book project covering thirty-one methods written by over fifty authors from across the globe, published by one of the leading academic publishers in the world.

We thank the contributing authors for sharing their expertise. We would not have been able to put this volume together without their commitment to complete their chapters, amidst all the challenges we faced in the past years due to the global pandemic. It took four years to complete this project, and so we are grateful for their patience.

We are also grateful to a community of scholars who read various chapters and provided concrete feedback on how these chapters can be improved. Dimitri Fazito and Ian O'Flynn are amongst these colleagues. We also thank the three anonymous reviewers for their constructive feedback and drawing our attention to methods we had missed in the initial iteration of this volume.

We are particularly grateful to two icons of deliberative democracy, John Dryzek and Jane Mansbridge. The book benefited from many discussions we have had with John Dryzek about normative theory and empirical research, and different ways of researching deliberative democracy. Similarly, Jane Mansbridge was very generous with her time and comments. She read through all the chapters of this book to write a concluding chapter that beautifully captures the essence of this book.

## viii Acknowledgements

Our gratitude also goes to Graham Smith for his support and encouragement, and for writing the Foreword, which affirms the importance of this project.

We thank Oxford University Press, especially its commissioning editor, Dominic Byatt, who supported this project from the beginning, and OUP editorial staff who steered the manuscript to completion. We are also grateful to Simon Mussell whose close reading and editing has helped to improve the expression and style in this book. We also thank Cassius Alvares, Pat Ray M. Dagapioso, Deniz Ercan, Juliana Rocha, and Romel Sencio for providing editorial support and assistance at various phases of our book project.

This book is published open access. This was made possible by the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, based at the Faculty of Government, Business and Law, with the strategic funds received from the University of Canberra. We are also thankful to the Australian Research Council (DP180103014, *Metastudy of Deliberation*), to the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes/Proex) and to the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development of Brazil (CNPq 423218/2018-2) for funding the preparation and proofreading of the manuscript.

To publish an open access methods book on deliberative democracy matters to us. We are supporters of open knowledge, for we consider this as one step towards addressing asymmetries in knowledge production and dissemination. The book calls for an inclusive, global, and critical exchange of ideas in researching deliberative democracy. This is only possible if anyone who wants to join this conversation can have access to and engage with the ideas that the authors have shared in this book.

We are honoured to put together this volume. We hope that it serves as a useful, relevant, and inspiring resource to the growing community of scholars and practitioners of deliberative democracy across the world.

Selen Ayırtman Ercan, Canberra, Australia

Hans Asenbaum, London, United Kingdom

Nicole Curato, Canberra, Australia

Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

# Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	xii
<i>List of Tables and Boxes</i>	xiii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xiv
<b>1. Researching Deliberative Democracy: Methods and Approaches</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Selen A. Ercan, Hans Asenbaum, Nicole Curato, and Ricardo F. Mendonça</i>	
<b>I THEORIZING DELIBERATION</b>	
<b>2. Methods of Theorizing</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Simone Chambers</i>	
<b>3. Formal Models</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>James Johnson</i>	
<b>4. Grounded Normative Theory</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>Genevieve Fuji Johnson</i>	
<b>5. Democratic Theorizing</b>	<b>66</b>
<i>Hans Asenbaum</i>	
<b>II MEASURING DELIBERATION</b>	
<b>6. Discourse Quality Index</b>	<b>83</b>
<i>André Bächtiger, Marlène Gerber, and Eléonore Fournier-Tombs</i>	
<b>7. Deliberative Reason Index</b>	<b>99</b>
<i>Simon Niemeyer and Francesco Veri</i>	
<b>8. Listening Quality Index</b>	<b>115</b>
<i>Mary F. Scudder</i>	
<b>9. Macro-level Assessment of Deliberative Quality</b>	<b>129</b>
<i>Dannica Fleuß</i>	
<b>10. Online Deliberative Matrix</b>	<b>148</b>
<i>Raphaël Kies</i>	

x Contents

<b>11. Experimental Methods</b>	<b>163</b>
<i>Kimmo Grönlund and Kaisa Herne</i>	
<b>12. Deliberative Field Experiments</b>	<b>175</b>
<i>Jon Kingzette and Michael Neblo</i>	
<b>13. Scenario Experiments</b>	<b>190</b>
<i>Hannah Werner and Lala Muradova</i>	
<b>14. Survey Methods</b>	<b>204</b>
<i>John Gastil</i>	
<b>15. Social Network Analysis</b>	<b>218</b>
<i>Eduardo M. da Silva, Antônio Carlos A. Ribeiro, and Silvio S. Higgins</i>	
<b>16. Big Data Analysis</b>	<b>233</b>
<i>Núria Franco-Guillén, Sebastian De Laile, and John Parkinson</i>	
<b>17. Qualitative Comparative Analysis</b>	<b>248</b>
<i>Matt Ryan</i>	
 III EXPLORING DELIBERATION	
<b>18. Ethnography</b>	<b>265</b>
<i>Nicole Curato and Nicole Doerr</i>	
<b>19. Rhetorical Criticism</b>	<b>278</b>
<i>John Rountree</i>	
<b>20. Process Tracing</b>	<b>292</b>
<i>Jonathan Pickering</i>	
<b>21. Q Methodology</b>	<b>307</b>
<i>Lucy J. Parry</i>	
<b>22. Dramaturgical Analysis</b>	<b>320</b>
<i>Selen A. Ercan and Carolyn M. Hendriks</i>	
<b>23. Narrative Analysis</b>	<b>333</b>
<i>John Boswell</i>	
<b>24. Frame Analysis</b>	<b>345</b>
<i>Ricardo F. Mendonça and Paula G. Simões</i>	
<b>25. Talk-based Analysis</b>	<b>356</b>
<i>Paromita Sanyal</i>	

<b>26. Media Analysis</b>	<b>370</b>
<i>Rousiley C. M. Maia and Tariq Choucair</i>	
<b>27. Mixed Methods</b>	<b>390</b>
<i>Oliver Escobar</i>	
<b>28. Case Study Research</b>	<b>406</b>
<i>Stephen Elstub and Gianfranco Pomatto</i>	
<b>IV ENACTING DELIBERATION</b>	
<b>29. Deliberative Policy Analysis</b>	<b>423</b>
<i>Hendrik Wagenaar</i>	
<b>30. Action Research</b>	<b>438</b>
<i>Kiran Cunningham and Lillian Muyomba-Tamale</i>	
<b>31. Community of Inquiry</b>	<b>450</b>
<i>Kei Nishiyama</i>	
<b>32. The Deliberative Camp</b>	<b>462</b>
<i>Donatella della Porta and Andrea Felicetti</i>	
<b>V CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS</b>	
<b>33. Mutual Need</b>	<b>479</b>
<i>Jane Mansbridge</i>	
<i>Index</i>	<b>499</b>

# List of Figures

7.1 Intersubjective Consistency: Illustrative Plot	104
7.2 IC Plots: The Bloomfield Track (Far North Queensland Citizens' Jury)	107
7.3 Summary DRI Results	109
7.4 DRI Analysis of Climate Sceptics versus Non-Climate Sceptics	111
8.1 Listening Quality Index	119
8.2 LQI Measurement Instrument	128
9.1 Concept Tree	132
9.2 Relationships between Attributes	134
9.3 Meso-Deliberativeness Measures in Different Deliberative Sites	137
9.4 Discourses on Abortion Policies over Time	142
15.1 One-mode Network	219
15.2 Two-mode Network	220
15.3 Ties of Support	223
15.4 Two-mode Network, Municipal Councils Subsystem of Belo Horizonte	226
15.5 One-mode Network, Municipal Councils Subsystem of Belo Horizonte	227
15.6 Islands in the Deliberative Subsystem of the Belo Horizonte Policy Councils	229
16.1 Topic Proportions, Scotland	240
16.2 Topic Correlations Plot, Scotland	241
16.3 Scotland Topic 33, Poverty, Austerity, and Class, by Formality over Time	243
16.4a Word Cloud of General Topic 17 (Stolen Generations)	243
16.4b Word Cloud of General Topic 21 (Children)	244
17.1 Venn Diagram	254

# List of Tables and Boxes

## Tables

1.1	Questions and Approaches in Deliberative Democracy Research	8
1.2	Research Methods in Deliberative Democracy	11
6.1	Factor Analysis of Deliberative Components in 29 Parliamentary Debates in Switzerland, United States, and Germany	88
6.2	Lexical Scale of Deliberative Quality	91
6.3	Deliberative Lexical Scale	92
9.1	Aggregation Rules	135
9.2	Measurement of Meso-Deliberativeness in Public and Empowered Spaces	137
10.1	Criteria for the Online Deliberative Matrix	150
15.1	Dimensions and Metrics of Social Networks	220
17.1	Hypothetical Simple Truth Table: Comparing Conditions for Deliberative Approaches to Climate Policy	249
17.2	Truth Table	259
21.1	Quasi-Normal Distribution	313
22.1	Four Dimensions of Dramaturgical Analysis	323
25.1	Citizens' Performances and State Enactments in Indian Village Assemblies	362
25.2	Differences in Citizens' Performances and Gaps in Political Literacy	363
28.1	Types of Evidence and their Implications	414

## Boxes

6.1	A Lexical Index of the DQI	91
27.1	Types of Mixed Methods Research Designs	395

# List of Contributors

**Hans Asenbaum** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, Australia.

**Selen Ayirtman Ercan** is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, Australia.

**André Bächtiger** is Professor of Political Theory and Empirical Democracy Research at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

**John Boswell** is Professor of Politics at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

**Simone Chambers** is Professor of Political Science at the University of California Irvine, United States of America.

**Tariq Choucair** is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia.

**Kiran Cunningham** is Professor of Anthropology at Kalamazoo College, USA and a Research Associate at Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, Uganda.

**Nicole Curato** is Professor of Political Sociology at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, Australia.

**Eduardo Moreira da Silva** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Sebastian De Laile** is an independent Data Scientist in Brisbane, Australia.

**Donatella della Porta** is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos) at Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, Italy.

**Nicole Doerr** is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Stephen Elstub** is a Reader in British Politics at Newcastle University, United Kingdom.

**Oliver Escobar** is a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Edinburgh and Academic Lead on Democratic Innovation at the Edinburgh Futures Institute, Scotland.

**Andrea Felicetti** is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, Italy.

**Dannica Fleuß** is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Dublin City University's Institute for the Future of Media, Democracy and Society (FuJo)

**Eléonore Fournier-Tombs** is Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law and the Coordinator of the Research Chair on Accountable AI in a Global Context, Canada.

**Núria Franco-Guillén** is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom.

**John Gastil** is Distinguished Professor in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences and Political Science and a senior scholar at the McCourtney Institute



for Democracy, at the Pennsylvania State University, United States of America.

**Marlène Gerber** is Co-Director of *Année Politique Suisse*, the Swiss Political Yearbook, and Lecturer at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

**Kimmo Grönlund** is Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Social Science Research Institute at Åbo Akademi University, Finland.

**Carolyn Maree Hendriks** is Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, Australia.

**Kaisa Herne** is Professor of Political Science at Tampere University, Finland.

**Silvio Salej Higgins** is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Genevieve Fuji Johnson** is Professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University, Canada.

**James Johnson** is Professor of Political Science at the University of Rochester, United States of America.

**Raphaël Kies** is a Senior Researcher at the University of Luxembourg.

**Jon Kingzette** holds a PhD in Political Science from The Ohio State University and works as a data scientist for Campbell & Company in Chicago, United States of America.

**Rousiley Celi Moreira Maia** is Professor of Political Communication at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Jane Mansbridge** is Charles F. Adams Professor Emerita at the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University, United States of America.

**Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça** is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas

Gerais, Brazil and a Fellow at CNPq, Fapemig and INCT.DD.

**Lala Muradova** is Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

**Lillian Muyomba-Tamale** is a governance expert at the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda.

**Michael Neblo** is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Communication, and Public Affairs and the Director of the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA) at the Ohio State University, United States of America.

**Simon Niemeyer** is Professor at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, Australia.

**Kei Nishiyama** is Assistant Professor at Doshisha University, Faculty of Policy Studies, Japan.

**John Parkinson** is Professor of Social and Political Philosophy at Maastricht University, Netherlands.

**Lucy Parry** is a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra, Australia and a Research Associate at Democratic Society aisbl, Belgium.

**Jonathan Pickering** is Assistant Professor in the Canberra School of Politics, Economics, and Society at the University of Canberra, Australia.

**Gianfranco Pomatto** is a Researcher at Ires Piemonte and Contract Professor in Public Policy at the University of Torino, Italy.

**Antônio Carlos Andrade Ribeiro** is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Sociology, and Organizational Theory at the Federal University of Ouro Preto, Brazil.

**xvi** List of Contributors

**John Rountree** is Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Houston-Downtown, United States of America.

**Matt Ryan** is Associate Professor in Governance and Public Policy at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

**Paromita Sanyal** is Professor of Sociology at Florida State University, United States of America.

**Mary (Molly) Scudder** is Associate Professor of Political Science at Purdue University, United States of America.

**Paula Guimarães Simões** is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Communication at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Graham Smith** is Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for the Study of

Democracy, University of Westminster, United Kingdom.

**Hendrik Wagenaar** is Senior Advisor to the International School for Government at King's College, London, Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra, Australia.

**Hannah Werner** is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the LEGIT Research Group on Democratic Legitimacy at the University of Leuven, Belgium.

**Francesco Veri** is a Lecturer and Head of the 'New forms of participation in established democracies' project at the Centre for Democracy Studies in Aarau, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

## Mixed Methods

*Oliver Escobar*

The areas of inquiry in deliberative democracy are multifaceted and often require methodological approaches that can grapple with complexity. This chapter <sup>1</sup> argues that mixed methods are particularly well suited to investigating deliberative democracy, while noting advantages and limitations of this approach. The chapter reviews methodological foundations, outlines basic aspects of research design, and illustrates how mixed methods can contribute to deliberative scholarship.

Mixed methods research (MMR) entails combining qualitative and quantitative strands in a research programme where findings and inferences are derived through the methodological and/or analytical integration of data. You may integrate in the early stages of data generation, for example, using the findings from one method (e.g. qualitative observation) to develop the foundations for another (e.g. quantitative survey). Or you may integrate later, for example while addressing a research question by drawing inferences from both quantitative and qualitative findings. Combining methods that generate one type of data, for example qualitative interviews and focus groups, constitutes a *multi-method design*, rather than MMR. Conversely, generating qualitative and quantitative data without integrating both strands constitutes a *quasi-mixed design*. Some level of integration across data sources and/or analytical strands is therefore what defines MMR (Bazeley 2018; Hesse-Biber and Johnson 2016).

MMR has proliferated in applied social science fields such as health, education, social policy, and international development, motivated by the need to conduct research that can inform policy and practice (Brannen and Moss 2012; Bazeley 2018). MMR starts from the premise that social phenomena and lived experiences are multidimensional and therefore research can be both limited and limiting if we grapple with complexity through a single dimension. MMR invites researchers to ‘the large table of empirical inquiry’ where they may engage with ‘multiple ways of seeing and hearing, multiple ways of making sense of the social world, and multiple standpoints on what is important and to be valued’ (Greene 2007, 20).

<sup>1</sup> I dedicate this chapter to Andy Thompson—friend and mentor in learning, doing, and teaching mixed methods. I want to also acknowledge the funding and support from the Edinburgh Futures Institute, ClimateXChange, and the What Works Scotland programme (ESRC Grant ES/M003922/1). Finally, I would like to thank Hans Asenbaum, Nicole Curato, Selen Ercan, and Ricardo Mendonça for very helpful reviews of the draft.

MMR is underpinned by paradigm pluralism, positing that various worldviews may serve as philosophical foundations for research (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2012, 779). The starting point for a mixed methods study is not a particular scientific paradigm (e.g. positivism, constructivism), or their disciplinary variants (e.g. post-positivism, interpretivism, critical realism). Instead, MMR starts with the problem or question that animates the research and then mobilizes relevant methods. There is some disagreement amongst methodologists regarding the ‘incompatibility thesis’, which argues that mixing is inappropriate due to clashes between the epistemological paradigms that underpin qualitative and quantitative methods (see Bryman 2006). MMR scholars respond to this ‘purist’ stance through frameworks such as the ‘pragmatist’, ‘dialectical’, or ‘transformative’ approaches, which reject the existence of inherent linkages between methods and paradigms and provide alternative philosophical foundations (Hesse-Biber 2016; Biesta 2010).

Accordingly, MMR is guided by the research questions and thus unencumbered by fixed philosophical or disciplinary loyalties. It transcends the qualitative/quantitative divide that fuelled the ‘science wars’ in favour of a pluralistic approach to social and political inquiry (Escobar and Thompson 2019, 503–505). MMR therefore accommodates multiple philosophical traditions, theoretical lenses, lived experiences, normative perspectives, and methodological approaches to grapple with complexity and generate a better understanding of the phenomena under investigation (Greene 2007, vii).

## Mixed Methods Research and Deliberative Democracy

These foundations make MMR well suited to the study of deliberative democracy, given their ontological, epistemological, and normative coherence. Ontologically, the objects of inquiry in deliberative scholarship are multiple, multilevel, multifaceted, and changing. The variety of beings that populate deliberative studies implies a diverse ontology that may encompass individuals, groups, artefacts, processes, systems, cultures, and so on. Epistemologically, deliberative studies range from positivism to constructivism and their variants, thus accommodating various ways of knowing (cf. Ercan et al. 2017). Normatively, deliberative scholarship carries a commitment to pluralism in values and viewpoints, which is also central to MMR.

This coherence between MMR and deliberative democracy is unsurprising given their shared intellectual heritage from classic pragmatism (Escobar 2017b; Biesta 2010). Their synergies offer untapped potential as the ‘third generation’ of deliberative scholarship develops an empirical agenda in pursuit of breadth and depth (Elstub 2010). Deliberative theory has morphed into a field of applied scholarship, where ideas and practices intertwine in growing research, civic, and policy networks and across communities of place, practice, identity, and interest. Democratic innovations are proliferating globally, multiplying experimentation and institutionalization

of deliberative processes across policy arenas and levels of governance (Bächtiger et al. 2018; Elstub and Escobar 2019; Chwalisz and Cesnulaityte 2020). This is fertile ground for the contribution of MMR, given its focus on generating applied research and actionable learning.

MMR fits well with recent calls for deliberative scholarship to be guided by the objects of inquiry rather than the habits of disciplinary or methodological silos (Bächtiger 2018). Methodological choices have profound consequences in terms of the empirical realities thrown into relief and the issues that become matters of public and research concern. For instance, if we choose to investigate solely through a quantitative lens, we may lack depth, whereas if we choose a qualitative lens, we may lack breadth. Reducing the scope for discovery to the single track of mono-method research, or to the confines of a multi-method approach, may limit our capacity to investigate complex phenomena.

Some research questions asked about deliberative democracy require attention to both patterns and cases, statistics and narratives, measures and meanings, numbers and words. For example, while studying mini-publics we may want to investigate the quality and effects of deliberation amongst participants, as much as their personal experiences of the process or the perspectives of citizens in broader publics affected by the decisions. When researching community deliberation processes, we may want to evaluate local outcomes as well as broader impact on policies, political culture, and institutional development. Or we may seek to understand the everyday work of deliberative practitioners as well as the effects of facilitation practices across comparative cases. The objects of inquiry in deliberative democracy are thus multifaceted and often require a varied methodological toolbox.

MMR can address exploratory, explanatory, and confirmatory questions simultaneously, which allows the generation and verification of theory in the same study (Teddle and Tashakkori 2009, 578–587). Exploratory questions aim to generate new insights and are usually open and tentative, seeking to illuminate an issue for which there is limited knowledge—for example, how do organizers, experts, and/or participants decide what types of evidence should be presented in a mini-public? In turn, explanatory and confirmatory questions seek to explain or confirm insights for which there is already a body of evidence—for example, why do some participants change their views through deliberation? An MMR project may feature separate strands with different questions, as well as overall questions that seek to integrate those strands—for example, how do different types of evidence presented in a deliberative process affect the participants' views?

The added value of MMR is articulated by Creswell and Plano Clark (2007, 9–10) as follows. First, MMR provides strengths that can offset the weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative research by addressing questions that may not be answerable by either approach alone. Second, MMR accommodates multiple viewpoints and encourages dialogue to overcome the (sometimes) adversarial relationship between qualitative and quantitative researchers. Finally, MMR is practical and resourceful because the methodological toolbox is wide-ranging. This versatility enables the investigation of normative or empirical puzzles that emerge from the deliberative

phenomena at hand, rather than limiting ourselves to questions that can be asked through our preferred methods. As in the proverb, if you are always holding a hammer, everything begins to look like a nail. The challenges of investigating deliberative democracy require space for creativity and discovery, and this invites us to open up the toolbox and look beyond the hammer.

Nevertheless, there are critiques and notes of caution to temper optimism and expectations around MMR (see [Hesse-Biber 2016](#); [Ahmed and Sil 2012](#)). MMR is not always viable or advisable, nor is it necessarily superior to mono-method or multi-method research. [Bryman \(2008, 624\)](#) offers a useful catalogue of challenges. First, MMR requires skills for both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Researchers must be conversant with basic foundations and research designs for both, and open to ongoing development of technical expertise. Second, MMR is usually resource-intensive as multifaceted lines of inquiry increase fieldwork strands. Finally, to merit effort and investment, MMR must generate findings that genuinely result from integration and that could not be gleaned via another approach. These challenges make MMR sometimes more viable for medium- and long-term research rather than for shorter studies (for practical solutions, see [Creswell et al. 2008](#)).

The study of deliberative democracy offers opportunities for MMR to address questions that are unanswerable through a single qualitative or quantitative approach. The following suggestions illustrate range and scope. For example, to understand the frequency and depth of public deliberation in everyday conversations, we may start by conducting a population survey and use the findings to frame deeper inquiry through focus groups. Or we may want to investigate the factors contributing to variable levels of participants' influence over the outcomes of deliberative processes. We could use process tracing in a small set of archetypal cases to explore key factors and then test the explanatory power of these emerging variables by building a large dataset for quantitative comparative analysis.

Or let's say that we aim to understand how facilitators address power inequalities in group deliberation. We could start with non-participant observation of facilitation work in diverse contexts. Over time we could map strategies and tactics and eventually test their efficacy through an experimental design. Finally, let's imagine that we seek to investigate the contribution of public officials to improving transmission or translation processes in deliberative systems. We may start by interviewing practitioners operating at nodal points between civic and official spaces (e.g. engagement officers, digital managers, partnership coordinators) and develop an observation protocol for ethnographic shadowing of a sub-sample. The resulting dataset then provides the foundations for a survey of practitioners across various policy arenas and levels of governance, helping to illuminate the role of agency and institutional culture in the functioning of deliberative systems.

These suggestions illustrate the potential of MMR to investigate deliberative actors, groups, processes, systems, and cultures. I will return to specific examples after introducing how researchers can design their study and undertake analysis drawing on mixed methods.

## Using Mixed Methods: Design, Analysis, and Quality

The normative and practical considerations that apply to any single method presented in this book provide relevant guidance for the individual strands of an MMR study. What makes MMR distinct is the combination and integration of qualitative and quantitative findings as part of a coherent research design. This section focuses on features that are unique to MMR, namely, its signature research designs, analytical approaches, and quality standards.

The first consideration is whether the research question, problem, or puzzle invites a mono-method, multi-method or MMR design. A robust mixed methods project begins with a clear rationale that explains why MMR is best placed to address the question(s). Qualitatively oriented questions often explore ‘specific dynamics or processes of everyday life’, typically with a focus on hidden or unquantifiable dimensions (Hesse-Biber 2010, 43). Quantitatively oriented questions usually seek to test relationships between variables, for example checking how independent variables (assumed to be determining factors) relate to dependent variables (assumed to be effects) (Ibid.). In turn, MMR questions blend empirical interest in meanings, actions, practices, or interactions as well as causality, frequencies, patterns, or correlations (Hesse-Biber 2010, 44).

A long-standing typology of rationales for MMR outlines five distinct purposes, and mixed methods projects are usually underpinned by at least one of these (Greene et al. 1989, 259). The first is *triangulation*, which checks corroboration or convergence between findings from different methods. For example, when conducting research on a mini-public we may check whether findings from observation field-notes regarding power dynamics amongst participants are corroborated or disputed by the findings from anonymous questionnaires (e.g. Roberts and Escobar 2015). The second distinctive purpose of MMR is *complementarity*, which seeks elaboration, illustration, or clarification of the findings from one method with the findings from another. For example, one could complement a population survey on deliberative attitudes with focus groups or interviews to generate a richer dataset on meanings, experiences, values, and narratives (cf. Neblo et al. 2010). The third purpose of MMR is *development*, where findings from one method help to develop another method. For example, the findings from studying income distribution and community participation in a local area may be used to inform observations and interviews with people involved in local deliberation at participatory budgeting assemblies (e.g. Baiocchi 2005).

The fourth purpose is *initiation*, by which the findings from one method inspire the use of another method to address a puzzle or contradiction or to elicit a new perspective. For example, one could imagine using the most puzzling results from a quantitative experiment on public attitudes to evidence to inform qualitative action research in an actual deliberative policymaking process. The final purpose is *expansion*, which seeks to amplify the scope of the inquiry by adding new methodological strands. For instance, an ethnographic study of deliberative practitioners may be expanded through a quantitative survey of its broader community of practice

(e.g. [Escobar 2014](#); [Escobar et al. 2018](#)). These different purposes can be articulated and combined in various ways depending on the choice of research design—[Box 27.1](#) offers an overview.

### Box 27.1 Types of Mixed Methods Research Designs

Adapting and blending the typologies by [Creswell and Plano Clark \(2011, 69–104\)](#) and [Teddlie and Tashakkori \(2009, 2557–2563\)](#), we can distinguish five basic MMR designs:

1. In *parallel designs* mixing occurs more or less simultaneously to answer related aspects of the same questions by drawing on both strands (quan ↔ qual).<sup>2</sup>
2. In *sequential designs*, mixing takes place in stages, with qualitative and quantitative strands sequenced purposefully so that each informs the next, guided by questions that may evolve. Within this type, there are
  - a. *explanatory sequential designs*, with the quantitative strand shaping the qualitative (QUAN → qual);
  - b. and *exploratory sequential designs*, where the qualitative strand sets the foundation (QUAL → quan).
3. In *conversion designs*, mixing occurs when one type of data is transformed and analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively (quan → ← qual), for example, text may be analysed thematically and then coded numerically to check frequencies or patterns.
4. In *embedded designs*, one strand takes place within the other, for example, an interview within an experiment: QUAN [qual]; or a questionnaire within a focus group: QUAL [quan].
5. Finally, *multi-level designs* entail larger programmes of inquiry where various sequential, parallel, conversion, and embedded designs may be combined.

Interpreting findings from different strands through combined analysis can be a challenging aspect of MMR (for guidance, see [Bazeley 2018](#)). While quantitative and qualitative data must be generated and interpreted ‘according to their own merits’, the benefit of mixing methods lies ‘in the way the data are integrated or can be used to interrogate each other’ ([Brannen and Moss 2012, 799](#)). As noted earlier, integration

<sup>2</sup> Developing a terminology for MMR has been an ongoing endeavor in the field ([Creswell and Plano Clark 2011, 189](#)). This paragraph illustrates a bespoke notation system, where symbols indicate type of relationship and capitalization indicates priority.



entails mixing strands either during data generation (e.g. findings from one method inform the work of another method) or at the stage of systematic analysis (e.g. drawing inferences from both strands and making sense of their resonance or divergence). This work can now be aided by software such as Dedoose, MAXQDA, NVivo, and QDA Miner (see [Bazeley 2018](#), 37–49).

MMR is a craft—that is, flexible, iterative, responsive. Drawing on [Greene \(2007](#), 144–145), [Onwuegbuzie and Teddlie \(2003\)](#) and [Bazeley \(2018\)](#), there are various stages and options available for data processing, interpretation, and analysis:

- Dataset creation: All data are processed according to quality standards appropriate to their respective sources, checking for methodological rigor, and organizing the dataset to enable accessibility and reflect range and depth.
- Data reduction: Data may be reduced through an initial analytical round that seeks to render it manageable by generating descriptive codes, frequencies, descriptive statistics, factors, case summaries, memos, or other ways of summarizing or synthesizing.
- Data display: A useful heuristic for analytical integration of data from different sources is to develop visual representations such as tables, charts, diagrams, or logic models.
- Data transformation: Quantitative data may be standardized, scaled, factor analysed, etc., while qualitative data may be developed into case profiles, thematic maps, critical incidents, chronological narratives, analytical codes, etc. MMR offers the option of transforming qualitative data into numbers (*quantitizing*) or numbers into words (*qualitizing*).<sup>3</sup>
- Data comparison and/or correlation: This is about exploring patterns and relationships in the dataset, for example developing clusters of variables, themes, or stories that indicate resonance or divergence. If qualitative data is *quantitized*, we may run tests to check for patterns. If quantitative data is *qualitized*, we may conduct new qualitative coding and analysis.
- Data consolidation: Sometimes it may be possible to combine different types of data to create new variables, themes, or datasets.
- Analysis of findings to draw inferences and meta-inferences: This is the process by which we arrive at a set of ‘negotiated and warranted’ conclusions ([Bazeley 2018](#), 277–280), going from findings derived through each method, to inferences drawn from those findings, and then to meta-inferences developed from combining methods.

In MMR, *inferences* are conclusions derived from analysing findings from each qualitative or quantitative strand, whereas *meta-inferences* are conclusions generated by analysing inferences across strands ([Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009](#), 4900

<sup>3</sup> For more information on *qualitizing* and *quantitizing*, see [Teddlie and Tashakkori \(2009\)](#) and [Bazeley \(2018\)](#).

and 2567). Meta-inferences thus epitomize the added value of MMR, that is, claims and arguments warranted by interpretive integration.

The MMR field has developed bespoke criteria to assess research quality. A robust MMR study includes: an explicit rationale for MMR; a design outline articulating the purpose, sequencing, and priority level for different strands; an overview of data generation and analysis for each strand; an indication of where and how integration was conducted; reflections on limitations; and an account of meta-inferences or insights drawn from mixing methods (O’Cathain 2010).

Tashakkori and Teddlie (2008) have proposed an ‘integrative framework’ to assess MMR. Data quality is first evaluated according to customary standards—that is, if quantitative data are valid/reliable and qualitative data are credible/dependable, then the study has ‘high overall data quality’ (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 3493). In addition, the integrative framework proposes a new set of criteria specific to MMR:

- *Design quality* refers to the quality of inputs at all stages, including research design, data generation, and analytical procedures (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 4848).
- *Interpretive rigor* refers to the quality of the process of making meaning by drawing inferences through the systematic linking and interpretation of findings (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 4849).
- *Inference quality* derives from blending the notions of internal validity (quan) and trustworthiness (qual) and is the standard for evaluating the quality of conclusions drawn from findings (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 467).
- *Inference transferability* blends the principles of external validity (quan) and transferability (qual) to assess to what extent the conclusions may resonate, be applicable, or offer insights in other contexts (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 470).

Researchers can sometimes be challenged by seemingly contradictory, divergent, or dissonant findings from different strands of an MMR study. This may seem problematic, but it can also help to enrich the analysis. Discrepancies between inferences force us to re-examine the findings or to ‘create a more advanced theoretical explanation’ (Teddlie and Tashakkori 2009, 5191; for practical solutions to this challenge see Tashakkori and Teddlie 2008, 116). Divergence and dissonance illustrate the capacity of MMR to grapple with complexity by generating ‘puzzles and paradoxes, clashes and conflicts that, when pursued, can engender new perspectives and understandings, insights not previously imagined, knowledge with originality and artistry’ (Greene 2007, 24). From this perspective, divergence is not a hindrance to be reluctantly accepted, but something to be embraced as a potential source of analytical creativity and depth. All in all, ‘convergence, consistency, and corroboration are

overrated in social inquiry' (Greene 2007, 144), and engaging with the messiness of socio-political phenomena can be one of the joyful and generative challenges of conducting MMR.

## Using MMR in Deliberative Democracy Research

The use of MMR in deliberative scholarship is somewhat sparse. A database search of the terms 'mixed methods' and 'deliberation/deliberative' elicits a limited number of publications.<sup>4</sup> This does not mean that researchers of deliberative democracy are not mixing methods, but it does suggest that it is uncommon to articulate those studies as MMR. Does this matter? Mixing methods is more than conducting qualitative and quantitative research in one study. There are philosophical, technical, and analytical considerations to be heeded, and it is hard to see how this can be done without reference to basic tenets of MMR.

There are exceptions to this limited use of explicit MMR approaches to study deliberative democracy. For example, there is growing work on 'moral case deliberation' within the context of health policy and practice (Spijkerboer et al. 2017); studies of 'deliberative contestation' in local development (Gibson and Woolcock 2008) or civil society deliberation in post-conflict justice (Kostovicova 2017); and research about emotions in deliberative processes like the Citizens' Initiative Review (Johnson et al. 2019). These studies use MMR to combine a range of methodological angles in order to make sense of complex processes, actors, and contexts.

Deliberative scholars have also developed approaches that incorporate principles and practices of MMR. For instance, the Discourse Quality Index (Steenbergen et al. 2003), and its conceptual expansion via Deliberative Transformative Moments (Jaramillo and Steiner 2019), illustrate the analytical possibilities opened up by *quantitizing* qualitative data. Another example is Q methodology, which creatively blends qualitative and quantitative work to investigate discourses (e.g. Niemeyer 2019) and practices (e.g. Durose et al. 2016). There is also scope for expanding MMR as comparative approaches to the study of democratic innovations proliferate (Ryan 2019; Boswell et al. 2019).

The remainder of this section introduces examples that illustrate three MMR designs: parallel, sequential, and multi-level.

<sup>4</sup> Search conducted in October 2019 using the Web of Science Core Collection database. The paired terms were 'mixed methods' and 'deliberat\*' (using a wild card) and generated 161 entries. Titles and abstracts were screened for relevance, reducing the sample to twenty-three publications where MMR was explicitly used to investigate aspects of deliberative democracy. Almost half of the entries were in health-related fields (47 per cent), with the rest spread sparsely across education, environment, communication, justice, computing, international development, urban planning, and methodology journals. This was not a full systematic review, but it offers a proxy to illustrate limited usage of MMR in deliberative scholarship, particularly within political science and public administration.

## Example 1. *Parallel Design*: Three Citizens' Juries on Wind Farm Development

The first example is a study of three citizens' juries tasked with developing principles to guide wind farm development in Scotland (see full report in [Roberts and Escobar 2015](#)). The study featured a *parallel design* repeated in the three sites that combined quantitative (i.e. panel survey at four time points) and qualitative data sources (i.e. non-participant observation fieldnotes, facilitation debriefs, evaluation reports, artefact analysis, presenter interviews). The purposes for mixing methods were *complementarity* and *expansion* in order to generate evidence about the complex intertwining of inclusion, interaction, deliberation, and influence within the process. Citizens' juries, like other mini-publics, provide excellent opportunities for MMR because parallel strands can be developed to grapple with phenomena unfolding simultaneously within and across sites.

In this project, the *parallel design* generated a large dataset that enabled the study of multiple dimensions, including: the politics and logistics of organizing mini-publics on contested issues involving multi-stakeholder policy networks (chapter 3); the evolving internal dynamics of citizen participation at the juries (chapter 4); the quality of public deliberation throughout the process (chapter 5); the conclusions and outputs developed by the mini-publics (chapter 6); the subtleties of deliberative learning and contestation while engaging with evidence and expertise (chapter 7); factors in opinion formation, consolidation, and change (chapter 8); participants' experiences of deliberative work and the development of civic skills and attitudes (chapter 9); and a set of meta-inferences to inform recommendations about the role of mini-publics in decision-making—including the intricate relationship between policy context, process design, and public legitimacy (chapter 10).

The report illustrates the capaciousness of MMR, in this case generating insights to address twenty-four research questions ranging from micro dynamics in deliberation to macro dimensions in the institutionalization of deliberative processes.

## Example 2. *Multi-level Design*: Two Studies of Mini-publics and Maxi-publics

The *parallel design* from Example 1 was subsequently developed into a *multi-level design* in two new projects: one studying public support for alternative policies to tackle health inequalities;<sup>5</sup> and the other investigating the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland about the future of the country.<sup>6</sup> What redefines these as multi-level designs is the addition of strands beyond the confines of the mini-publics.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.healthinequalities.net> (accessed March 1, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.citizensassembly.scot> (accessed March 1, 2021).

For example, the health inequalities project comprised three citizens' juries in Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, as well as a population survey that generated data for the United Kingdom as well as for each jury location (see [Smith et al. 2021](#)). This enables the comparison of deliberative versus aggregative constructions of 'the public' as a basis for analysing the resulting dilemmas for decision makers facing alternative public-making approaches ([Escobar et al. 2017](#)). The MMR multi-level design thus helps to explore what types of publics are more supportive of *upstream* policies to tackle health inequalities (e.g. taxation, housing, labour, advertising) and which are more supportive of *downstream* policies (e.g. diet, smoking, fitness, lifestyle). These are very different policy responses to a complex challenge, and we are currently working on a paper outlining the implications for policymaking.

The second example of a multi-level design is the research project about the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland. Besides studying the internal dimensions of the Assembly (i.e. inclusion, design, facilitation, deliberative quality, governance), the research also considers its external dimensions. Therefore, it includes population surveys to investigate how the maxi-public relates to the mini-public and the issues undergoing public deliberation. This is complemented by interviews with institutional, political, and media actors to understand the systemic uptake and future prospects for democratic innovation in Scotland. The research was recently completed (see [Elstubb et al. 2022](#))<sup>7</sup> and we have turned the shareable parts of the mixed methods dataset into an open access resource<sup>8</sup> so that interested researchers can work with it. The project illustrates the resource-intensive nature of MMR, in this case comprising a team of ten researchers across various disciplines.

### Example 3. *Sequential Design*: Studying the World of Official Deliberative Practitioners

The final example is a *sequential design* to study the work of public engagement officials who organize and facilitate deliberative processes in local and regional governance in Scotland. The first stage entailed two years of ethnographic fieldwork in four case study areas to develop a qualitative dataset including documents, images, participant observation fieldnotes (i.e. 117 meetings, 131 days of shadowing, fifteen weeks of work placements), and transcripts from forty-four interviews and three focus groups (see [Escobar 2014, 2015](#)). The qualitative strand explored three questions: How do public engagement officials design and facilitate deliberative processes? What kind of work does it take? And what kind of work does this do (i.e. what is the impact on institutional cultures)?

<sup>7</sup> Interim data briefings are also available, covering internal dimensions to inform ongoing work by the Assembly's Stewarding Group and Secretariat, as well as the design and facilitation teams: <https://www.citizensassembly.scot/research> (accessed March 1, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> The dataset has been deposited with the UK Data Service (<https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/find-data/>) and was being prepared for open access at the time this book went to print.

The findings provided the foundation to later develop a quantitative strand, thus turning the project into a *sequential* design that widened the inquiry. The rationale for MMR was thus threefold: development, complementarity, and expansion. Building on the qualitative findings, a two-wave survey was conducted in 2016 and 2018 to investigate the broader network of official engagement practitioners across Scotland (Escobar et al. 2018; Weakley and Escobar 2018). The first wave provided a baseline, while the second also explored the early impact of the Community Empowerment Act—new legislation introduced in 2015 to advance participatory governance and deliberative policymaking. The MMR sequential design therefore entailed an in-depth study of everyday work by a small group of practitioners, which generated ethnographically informed propositions to be tested across a larger population. This enabled the national surveys to be based on a grounded understanding of public engagement work at the frontline of deliberative processes.

Crucially, MMR allowed us to check whether findings from the case study areas in the qualitative strand had resonance across the country (see Escobar et al. 2018; Weakley and Escobar 2018). For example, the surveys showed that levels of burnout amongst deliberative practitioners varied across localities, which tempered the stark findings from the qualitative strand (i.e. that burnout was rife). Conversely, we thought that the qualitative strand had focused on officials who were unusually committed to advancing culture change in public administration, and that therefore these case study areas were outliers. The surveys, however, suggested that culture change work was prominent across the country, thus giving us insight into widespread ‘internal activism’ by public officials—a dimension that remains under-explored in democratic innovation (Escobar 2017a). All in all, this sequential MMR project spanned a decade and provided the evidence base to support meta-inferences about the current institutionalization of participatory governance in Scotland (Escobar 2021).

## Conclusion

This chapter offered an overview of MMR, outlining its philosophical foundations, varied designs, strategies for analysis and integration, specialist terminology, and quality standards. I hope the chapter reads like an invitation to develop a mixed methods community of practice within the deliberative democracy community of inquiry.

As we seek to enhance our current approaches in order to grapple with complex phenomena, we may grow in appreciation of what MMR has to offer. This may be particularly so as deliberative democracy enters mainstream politics and policymaking and we try to understand, for example, the successes and failures of institutionalizing deliberative public engagement; how power dynamics unfold in deliberative systems; the work of policy actors and communities of practice in the deliberative industry; the prospects for public deliberation in everyday talk and multi-media contexts; how

various publics, stakeholders, and gatekeepers relate to citizen-centred deliberative institutions; or how online deliberation may enable transnational governance or the formation of a global demos to tackle the challenges of our time.

MMR can foster collaboration across disciplines and temper the hegemonic tendencies of some research communities wedded to narrow definitions of scientific inquiry. All in all, MMR provides fertile ground for building an actionable science of and for democracy. Our current collective predicament, as citizens and researchers, demands no less.

## Further Reading

- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy, and Burke Johnson, eds. 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research Inquiry*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Teddle, Charles, and Abbas Tashakkori. 2009. *Foundations of Mixed Methods Research: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. London: Sage.

## References

- Ahmed, Amel, and Rudra Sil. 2012. 'When Multi-Method Research Subverts Methodological Pluralism, or, Why We Still Need Single-Method Research'. *Perspectives on Politics* 10: 935–953.
- Bächtiger, André. 2018. 'A Preface to Studying Deliberation Empirically'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy*, edited by André Bächtiger, John Dryzek, Jane Mansbridge, and Mark Warren, pp. v–viii. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bächtiger, André, John Dryzek, Jane Mansbridge, and Mark Warren, eds. 2018. *The Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Baiocchi, Gianpaolo. 2005. *Militants and Citizens: The Politics of Participatory Democracy in Porto Alegre*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Bazeley, Patricia. 2018. *Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research*. London: Sage.
- Biesta, Gert. 2010. 'Pragmatism and the Philosophical Foundations of Mixed Methods Research'. In *Sage Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioral Research*, edited by Abbas Tashakkori and Charles Teddlie, pp. 95–117. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Boswell, John, Jack Corbett, and R. A. W. Rhodes. 2019. *The Art and Craft of Comparison*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Brannen, Julia, and Gemma Moss. 2012. 'Critical Issues in Designing Mixed Methods Policy Research'. *American Behavioral Scientist* 56: 789–801.
- Bryman, Alan. 2006. 'Paradigm Peace and the Implications for Quality'. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 9: 111–126.
- Bryman, Alan. 2008. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Chwalisz, Claudia, and Ieva Cesnulaityte. 2020. *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*. Paris: OECD.
- Creswell, John W., and Vicki L. Plano Clark. 2007. *Understanding Mixed Methods Research*. London: Sage.
- Creswell, John W., and Vicki L. Plano Clark. 2011. *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research*. London: Sage.
- Creswell, John W., Vicki L. Plano Clark, and Amanda L. Garrett. 2008. 'Methodological Issues in Conducting Mixed Methods Research'. In *Advances in Mixed Methods Research: Theories and Applications*, edited by Manfred Max Bergman, pp. 63–83. London: Sage.
- Durose, Catherine, Merlijn Van Hulst, Stephen Jeffares, Oliver Escobar, Annika Agger, and Laurens De Graaf. 2016. 'Five Ways to Make a Difference: Perceptions of Practitioners Working in Urban Neighborhoods'. *Public Administration Review* 76: 576–586.
- Elstub, Stephen. 2010. 'The Third Generation of Deliberative Democracy'. *Political Studies Review* 8: 291–307.
- Elstub, Stephen, and Oliver Escobar, eds. 2019. *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Elstub, Stephen, Oliver Escobar, Ailsa Henderson, Tamara Thorne, Nick Bland, and Evelyn Bowes. 2022. *Research Report on the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government Social Research.
- Ercan, Selen A., Carolyn Hendriks, and John Boswell. 2017. 'Studying Public Deliberation after the Systemic Turn: The Crucial Role for Interpretive Research'. *Policy & Politics* 45: 195–212.
- Escobar, Oliver. 2014. 'Transformative Practices: The Political Work of Public Engagement Practitioners'. PhD Thesis, University of Edinburgh, available at: <https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/9915>.
- Escobar, Oliver. 2015. 'Scripting Deliberative Policy-making: Dramaturgic Policy Analysis and Engagement Know-how'. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* 17: 269–285.
- Escobar, Oliver. 2017a. 'Making it Official: Participation Professionals and the Challenge of Institutionalizing Deliberative Democracy'. In *The Professionalization of Public Participation*, edited by Laurence Bherer, Mario Gauthier, and Louis Simard, pp. 141–164. New York: Routledge.
- Escobar, Oliver. 2017b. 'Pluralism and Democratic Participation: What Kind of Citizen are Citizens Invited to be?'. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 14: 416–438.
- Escobar, Oliver. 2021. 'Between radical aspirations and pragmatic challenges: Institutionalizing participatory governance in Scotland'. *Critical Policy Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/19460171.2021.1993290.
- Escobar, Oliver, and Andrew Thompson. 2019. 'Mixed Methods Research in Democratic Innovation'. In *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*, edited by Stephen Elstub and Oliver Escobar, pp. 501–514. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.



- Escobar, Oliver, Ken Gibb, Mor Kandlik Eltanani, and Sarah Weakley. 2018. *Community Planning Officials Survey: Understanding the Everyday Work of Local Participatory Governance in Scotland*. Edinburgh: What Works Scotland.
- Escobar, Oliver, Kat Smith, and Sarah Weakley. 2017. 'Making Publics: Critical Choices in How Decision Makers Engage with Citizens' Views'. Political Studies Association Conference, Glasgow.
- Gibson, Christopher, and Michael Woolcock. 2008. 'Empowerment, Deliberative Development, and Local-level Politics in Indonesia: Participatory Projects as a Source of Countervailing Power'. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 43: 151–180.
- Greene, Jennifer C. 2007. *Mixed Methods in Social Inquiry*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Greene, Jennifer C., Valerie Caracelli, and Wendy F. Graham. 1989. 'Toward a Conceptual Framework for Mixed-Method Evaluation Designs'. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 11: 255–274.
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy. 2010. *Mixed Methods Research: Merging Theory with Practice*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy. 2016. 'Navigating a Turbulent Research Landscape: Working the Boundaries, Tensions, Diversity, and Contradictions of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Inquiry'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research Inquiry*, edited by Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Burke Johnson, pp. xxxiii–liv. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy, and Burke Johnson, eds. 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Multimethod and Mixed Methods Research Inquiry*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jaramillo, Maria Clara, and Jürg Steiner. 2019. 'From Discourse Quality Index to Deliberative Transformative Moments'. In *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*, edited by Stephen Elstub and Oliver Escobar, pp. 527–539. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Johnson, Genevieve Fuji, Michael E. Morrell, and Laura W. Black. 2019. 'Emotions and Deliberation in the Citizens' Initiative Review'. *Social Science Quarterly* 100: 2168–2187.
- Kostovicova, Denisa. 2017. 'Seeking Justice in a Divided Region: Text Analysis of Regional Civil Society Deliberations in the Balkans'. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 11: 154–175.
- Neblo, Michael, Kevin Esterling, Ryan Kennedy, David Lazer, and Anand Sokhey. 2010. 'Who Wants to Deliberate—and Why?' *American Political Science Review* 104: 1–18.
- Niemeyer, Simon. 2019. 'Analysing Deliberative Transformation: A Multi-level Approach Incorporating Q Methodology'. In *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*, edited by Stephen Elstub and Oliver Escobar, pp. 540–557. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

- O’Cathain, Alicia. 2010. ‘Assessing the Quality of Mixed Methods Research: Towards a Comprehensive Framework’. In *Sage Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioral Research*, edited by Abbas Tashakkori and Charles Teddlie, pp. 531–555. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Onwuegbuzie, Anthony, and Charles Teddlie. 2003. ‘A Framework for Analysing Data in Mixed Methods Research’. In *Handbook of Mixed Methods in Social and Behavioral Research*, edited by Abbas Tashakkori and Charles Teddlie, pp. 351–384. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Roberts, Jennifer, and Oliver Escobar. 2015. *Involving Communities in Deliberation: A Study of Three Citizens’ Juries on Onshore Wind Farms in Scotland*. Edinburgh: ClimateXChange, available at: <http://www.climatexchange.org.uk/reducing-emissions/citizens-juries-wind-farm-development-scotland/>.
- Ryan, Matt. 2019. ‘Comparative Approaches to the Study of Democratic Innovation’. In *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*, edited by Stephen Elstub and Oliver Escobar, pp. 558–570. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Smith, Katherine E., Anna K. Macintyre, Sarah Weakley, Sarah E. Hill, Oliver Escobar, and Gillian Fergie. 2021. ‘Public Understandings of Potential Policy Responses to Health Inequalities: Evidence from a UK National Survey and Citizens’ Juries in three UK Cities’. *Social Science & Medicine*, 291,114458: 1–11.
- Spijkerboer, R. P., J. C. Van Der Stel, G. A. M. Widdershoven, and A. C. Molewijk. 2017. ‘Does Moral Case Deliberation Help Professionals in Care for the Homeless in Dealing with Their Dilemmas? A Mixed-Methods Responsive Study’. *Hec Forum* 29: 21–41.
- Steenbergen, Marco R., André Bachtiger, Markus Spörndli, and Jürg Steiner. 2003. ‘Measuring Political Deliberation: A Discourse Quality Index’. *Comparative European Politics* 1: 21–48.
- Tashakkori, Abbas, and Charles Teddlie. 2008. ‘Quality of Inferences in Mixed Methods Research: Calling for an Integrative Framework’. In *Advances in Mixed Methods Research: Theories and Applications*, edited by Manfred Max Bergman, pp. 101–119. London: Sage.
- Teddlie, Charles, and Abbas Tashakkori. 2009. *Foundations of Mixed Methods Research: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. London: Sage (EBook).
- Teddlie, Charles, and Abbas Tashakkori. 2012. ‘Common ‘Core’ Characteristics of Mixed Methods Research: A Review of Critical Issues and Call for Greater Convergence’. *American Behavioral Scientist* 56: 774–788.
- Weakley, Sarah, and Oliver Escobar. 2018. *Community Planning after the Community Empowerment Act*. Edinburgh: What Works Scotland.