

Double Gazing: Ontology and Compliance in Qualitative Research

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What is it about?

Qualitative researchers not only have to learn what might be thought of as ‘the basics’ of how to do research, they also need to address some fairly difficult questions about their research practice. The aim of this research-methods workshop is to develop clearer thinking around two concepts that influence practice but currently receive inadequate attention in the literature on research methods. These are:

1. The researcher’s purpose
2. Cultural standards & compliance as context

Why is it important?

There is evidence that teasing out the possible meaning of each concept is important because improved researcher understanding in these areas will not only enhance the quality of research projects, but also help guide research careers and help the researcher contribute to their research community.

How the session will be run

We will use a workshop approach to discuss each concept. I will provide illustrative examples and evidence for each idea and then a stimulus question to prompt group discussion. The outcomes will be documented. My contribution to the workshop will be based on my Higher Education research as well as my experiences of teaching qualitative research methods for postgraduate students and colleagues. Our discussions will be enhanced if they are grounded in a variety of qualitative tertiary education research perspectives and experiences.