

SACRAMENTO STATE
Leadership begins here.

Qualitative Research: Narrative and Ethnographic Research

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Narrative Research

- ◆ "...the study of how different humans experience the world around them, and it uses a methodology that allows people to tell the stories of their 'storied lives'." (p. 429)

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Narrative Research Characteristics

- ◆ Focuses on the experiences of individuals
- ◆ Concerned with the chronology of the individual's experiences
- ◆ Focuses on the construction of life stories based on data collected via interviews
- ◆ Uses re-storying

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Narrative Research Characteristics

- ◆ Incorporates context and place in the story
- ◆ Is collaborative (researcher & participants construct the narrative together)
- ◆ Always involves responding to the question, "And then what happened?"

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Narrative Research Techniques

- ◆ Restorying
- ◆ Narrative analysis
- ◆ Oral history
- ◆ Artifacts
- ◆ Storytelling
- ◆ Letter writing
- ◆ Autobiographical and biographical writing

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Beginning a Narrative Research Project

- ◆ How many of you have taught students with ADHD?
- ◆ Would you be willing to have a classmate interview you for 15 minutes?
- ◆ Such discussion would allow the classmate to begin to understand the "experiences" that you feel have shaped the way you work with these students.

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Getting Qualitative Research Project Started

- ◆ Narrative Data Analysis
 - Themes?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - New questions?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

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Ethnographic Research

- ◆ "... the study of the cultural and patterns and perspectives of participants in their natural settings." (Gay et al., 2006, p. 441)

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Ethnographic Research Process

1. Identify the purpose of the research
2. Frame the study as a larger theoretical, policy, or practical problem
3. Pose initial research questions
4. Describe the overall approach and rationale for the study
5. Describe the site and sample selection

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Ethnographic Research Process

6. Describe the researcher's role
7. Describe data collection methods
8. Describe appropriate strategies for data analysis/interpretation
9. Write the research report

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Key Characteristics of Ethnographic Research

- ◆ Conducted in natural settings (not labs)
- ◆ Involves intimate, face-to-face interaction
- ◆ Reflects participant's perspective/behavior
- ◆ Uses inductive, interactive, & repetitious collection of unstructured data
- ◆ Data primarily collected via fieldwork
- ◆ Uses multiple methods (interview, observation, artifact collection)
- ◆ Frames behaviors/beliefs within a sociopolitical/historical context

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Key Characteristics of Ethnographic Research

- ◆ Culture is considered a lens through which to interpret results
- ◆ Strives to understand the nature of social phenomena
- ◆ Studies a small number of cases in depth
- ◆ Requires researchers to be reflective about their impact
- ◆ Interprets actions and behaviors via what they actually do and their reasons for doing it.

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Ethnographic Research Techniques

- ◆ Triangulation
- ◆ Participant observation
 - Active participant observer
 - Privileged, Active observer
 - Passive observer
- ◆ Field Notes

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Ethnographic Research Techniques

- ◆ Observing and recoding everything you possibly can
- ◆ Observing and looking for nothing in particular
- ◆ Looking for “bumps” or paradoxes

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Last Class Meeting

- ◆ Writing and Evaluating Research
- ◆ Read *Educational Research* Chapters 22 & 23
- ◆ Any missing portfolio elements must be turned in by 4pm, Tuesday May 14

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