

– CALL FOR ABSTRACTS –

The University of Bath is pleased to announce a call for abstracts for the Fifth Annual *Qualitative Research Symposium* entitled:

Myths, Methods, and Messiness: Insights for Qualitative Research Analysis

The analytical process in qualitative inquiry is challenging. Unlike the mechanics followed in quantitative research, there are innumerable ways to conduct qualitative analysis. Analytical approaches range from structured step-by-step processes, through more flexible frames to those without pre-determined form.

Regardless of approach, for many reasons (e.g., growing acceptance, rigor, trustworthiness, etc.), qualitative researchers are being encouraged and required to communicate their analytical approach in detail. Yet, several challenges arise from this expectation for all writers and readers of qualitative inquiry. First, general and disciplinary specific qualitative research texts share excellent practices, processes, and examples, but in our research endeavors the analytical process very much becomes our own. Second, expectations for describing analytical approaches vary considerably in relation to the specificity of a named approach, disciplinary norm, theoretical or interpretive orientation, different data form, or publication style and structure. Third, despite advances in qualitative education and training, the limits of preparation and training provision compared to quantitative research leave many scholars new to qualitative inquiry adrift. Thus, we are all challenged with how we recognize, understand, appraise, and engage with a potentially endless variety of analytical processes.

For the Symposium this year, we invite researchers to explore and share their past, current, or future analytical practice. We aim to provide space for researchers to:

- Engage with a variety of forms of analysis from colleagues across multiple disciplines
- Delve deeper into and discuss their orientations and processes of analysis
- Challenge simplistic understandings of qualitative analysis
- Consider the aspects of the qualitative research process that inform our thinking on and approach to analysis, quality, rigor, and trustworthiness

We welcome theoretically inspired, methodologically oriented, and/or empirically grounded inquiries that link to the Symposium Themes below, which undoubtedly overlap and intersect.

THEMES

- 1) Analytical Processes:** This theme focuses on the various aspects of the research process that inform analysis (e.g., paradigmatic orientations, disciplinary expectations, or methodological choices). What forms of data analysis are available to us? What relevance do those forms have to the focus or intent of our inquiry? How do different disciplines value, evaluate, or transform analytical possibilities? In what ways do different forms of data (e.g., words, images, field notes, web-based, videos, etc.) influence the analytical process? What are the strengths, weaknesses, or challenges of different analytical methods? When and how do data collection and analysis relate to one another?
- 2) Practicing Analysis:** This theme provides space for authors to explore and exemplify analytical practices in their work. Questions that may be useful for consideration: Can you walk someone else through your analytical progression? What analytical approach do you employ, and how? What are the challenges faced in the analysis? When does analysis go awry? Is messiness a problem, and how do you restore 'order' for the reader? How do you know you have done analysis 'correctly' or 'incorrectly'?

3) Interpreting and Representing Analysis: This theme focuses on the relationship and interplay of interpretation and representation. Questions that may be useful for consideration: At what point in the research process does interpretation and analysis end and begin? When, where, and how do we integrate theory? At what stage should literature be integrated with analysis? How do we shift from analysis to output or representation?

PRACTICALITIES

The Symposium will take place at the University of Bath on **Wednesday 30 January 2019**. Website: <http://bath.ac.uk/events/qualitative-research-symposium-2019/>. We invite abstracts across a wide range of issues related to Qualitative Inquiry but especially those related to the Themes. We encourage contributors to reflect on and consider their past, current, or future work in relation to the Themes. Contributions across all academic disciplines are welcome.

The Symposium is a one-day event at the University of Bath. **Keynote Lecture** to be delivered by **Dr Victoria Clarke (University of the West of England)**. Cost of attendance is £10, which will be waived for all who present. Lunch will be provided. A small budget is available to support presenters' travel expenses. This is targeted towards postgraduates, researchers on fixed-term contracts, and others with limited means for conference participation. *Please enquire about this when submitting your abstract (see below).*

Following the success of the 2018 QRS edited volume, we will publish short papers based on author contributions. QRS 2018 edited proceedings: <https://researchportal.bath.ac.uk/en/publications/how-do-we-belong-researcher-positionality-within-qualitative-inqu>. Authors who wish to be considered for this publication should submit their abstract and indicate their interest and intent to submit a short paper (3000-5000 words) by the date of the Symposium. Details to follow.

KEY DATES

Submission Deadline: Friday 2 November 2018

Please submit abstracts by email to QRSBath@bath.ac.uk. Abstracts should be prepared in a word processing document and include the following within the document:

- Paper title
- Author details, contact information, and affiliated university or employer
- Symposium theme(s) to which abstract relates
- Indication of interest and intention to submit a short paper by the date of the Symposium
- Inquiry of travel fund support (if relevant)
- Abstract of no more than 350 words, which should clearly summarize the topic of research. Abstracts may include the following elements: Introduction; area of scholarly contribution; theory (where relevant); methods; and findings and conclusions.

Please also contact us via the address above with any queries about the event, abstract submission process, suggestions for papers not directly addressed by the Symposium Themes, and the edited volume.

Author Notification: Saturday 1 December 2018

Authors will be notified by email whether or not their papers have been accepted for inclusion in the Symposium. Those accepted will be asked to prepare presentations of 15 to 20 minute duration.

ORGANISERS

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