• CALL FOR ABSTRACTS •

The University of Bath is pleased to announce the call for papers for the Sixth Annual Qualitative Research Symposium entitled:

Tick Tock: Unpacking Temporal Aspects of Qualitative Inquiry

Temporality is arguably a foundational, processual, relational, practical, and conceptual aspect of all qualitative research. The way that time features in qualitative research ranges from straightforward to complex, anywhere in-between, or even ignored altogether. When taken seriously, features of time have vexed and inspired a range of inquiry. Heidegger’s return to ontology in Being and Time (1962) elucidated how what it means to be is inherently linked to what time itself is; time is responsible for the cohesion of experience, consciousness, and subjectivity, of existence. Longitudinal field work, evident within William Foot Whyte’s classic ethnographic Street Corner Society (1943) through to contemporary studies of ageing (for example, Dannefer, 2013), are established exemplars of qualitative inquiry. Foucault’s development of a genealogical method in order to write a history of the present, exemplified in Discipline and Punish (1977), examined the historical conditions of existence that underpin present-day practices. Specific periods in time, temporal aspects of history, use of time zones, trend analyses, social and cultural perceptions or uses of time, constructions of temporality, the effect of time on phenomena, the consideration of time via methodological choices, or time as the object of study itself all matter in and through qualitative research. Despite its omnipresence and intricate relation in our work, time can also become solely a practical element rather than a fully developed dimension of the work. As qualitative research grows, examining the use, interpretation, and/or conceptualization of time in qualitative work, we propose, has never been more needed, necessary, or indeed timely.

At the 2020 QRS meeting, we invite you to share with us how time is incorporated into your qualitative research. In the Symposium this year, we highlight three time-related themes:

1) Conceptualizations and interpretations of time: This theme focuses on how time is used as a conceptual framework for research. Questions that may be useful for consideration: How is time conceptualized or interpreted within or imposed upon a project by its authors? How is time used to frame a specific phenomenon under investigation? What does a specific conceptual framing include or exclude?

2) Practical aspects of time: This theme focuses on how time is part of the methodological decisions that researchers make. Questions that may be useful for consideration: What are the implications of timing in data collection or analysis? When is time up for gathering qualitative data? How does longitudinal research impact qualitative understanding? How is time related to quality, trustworthiness, and rigor?

3) Qualitative timelines: This theme considers time’s relevance for research participants, stakeholders, and researchers in qualitative research. What is the journey of a qualitative project and the researcher? How long does it take for qualitative researchers to develop? How do we use our time to prepare, carry out, and disseminate qualitative research? How does this vary within different methodologies (i.e. phenomenology, ethnography, narrative inquiry), orientations (i.e., constructionism, pragmatism, post-modern/structuralism), or disciplines.

We encourage contributors to reflect on and consider their past, current, or future work in relation to the overarching theme of time. Contributions across all academic disciplines are welcome, as are theoretically
inspired, methodologically oriented, and empirically grounded inquiries that link to these overlapping themes.

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Prof Virginia Braun (https://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/people/v-braun) is based in the School of Psychology at The University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her research examines the relationship between the social, the scientific, and the individual in relation to bodies, sexuality, and health. Her interests lie in the influence of culture and society on individual choices, thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, and on broader issues related to public health policy and practice. Influenced by feminist, social constructionist, and discursive theory and practice, she tends to employ qualitative methodologies; she is extremely well known for her work with Dr. Victoria Clarke (The University of the West of England) on Thematic Analysis.

PRACTICALITIES

The Symposium is a two-day event on 28 and 29 January 2020 held at the University of Bath. Website: https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/qualitative-research-symposium-2020/.

Presentations will be on Wednesday 29 January 2020. Cost of attendance is £30. Coffees, teas, and lunch will be provided. Presenters will pay a subsidized cost of £15. A small budget is available to support postgraduates and researchers with limited means for travel and conference participation: Information will be available when registration opens in November.

On Tuesday 28 January 2020, a series of qualitative workshops will be offered through separate advertisement.

KEY DATES

Submission Deadline: Friday 25 October 2019
The following should be prepared for submission:

- Paper title
- Affiliated university or employer, and contact information
- Symposium theme(s) to which paper relates
- Abstract of no more than 350 words

Submit abstracts here: https://bathreg.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/qrs-2020-abstractsubmission

Please contact us via QRSBath@bath.ac.uk with any queries about the event, abstract submission process, or suggestions for papers not directly addressed by the Symposium Themes.

Author Notification: Friday 29 November 2019
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

QRS 2020 Organizing Committee (QRSBath@bath.ac.uk): Bryan Clift, Julie Gore, Sheree Bekker, Ioannis Costas Batlle, Stefanie Gustafsson, Katharina Chudzikowski, and Jenny Hatchard