

Research integrity: what it means to qualitative researchers

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“Reaching the parts other methods cannot reach” *

The goal of qualitative research is:

the development of concepts which help us to **understand social phenomena** in natural (rather than experimental) settings, giving due emphasis to the **meanings, experiences, and views** of all the participants.



Quantitative and qualitative research

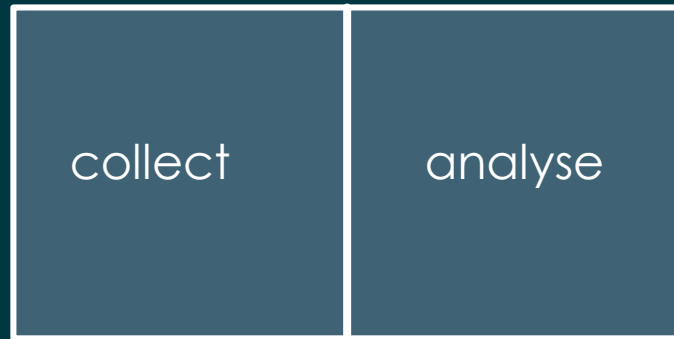
Quantitative research is **expressed in numbers and graphs**.
It is used to **test or confirm** theories and assumptions.
It can be used to establish **generalizable facts** about a topic.

Qualitative research is **expressed in words**.
It is used to **understand** concepts, thoughts or experiences.
It enables you to gather **in-depth insights** on topics that are not well understood.

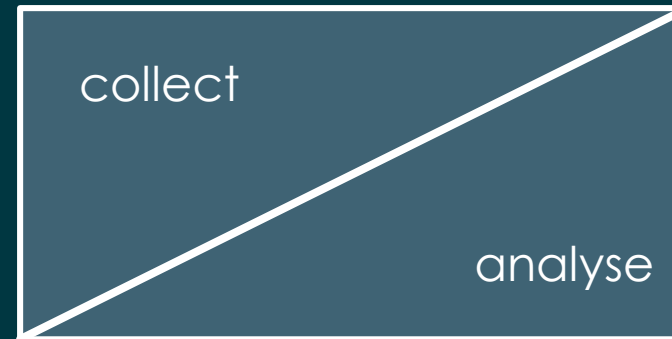
	Quantitative	Qualitative
General framework	<p>Confirm hypotheses about phenomena</p> <p>Structured measures</p>	<p>Explore phenomena</p> <p>Semi structured measures</p>
Analytical objectives	<p>Quantify variation</p> <p>Predict causal relationships</p>	<p>Describe variation</p> <p>Describe and explain relationships</p>
Flexibility study design	<p>Stable from beginning to end</p> <p>Participant responses do not influence next questions</p> <p>Design is subject to statistical assumptions and conditions</p>	<p>Flexible aspects</p> <p>Participant responses do influence next questions</p> <p>Design is iterative, data collection adjusted according to what is learned</p>



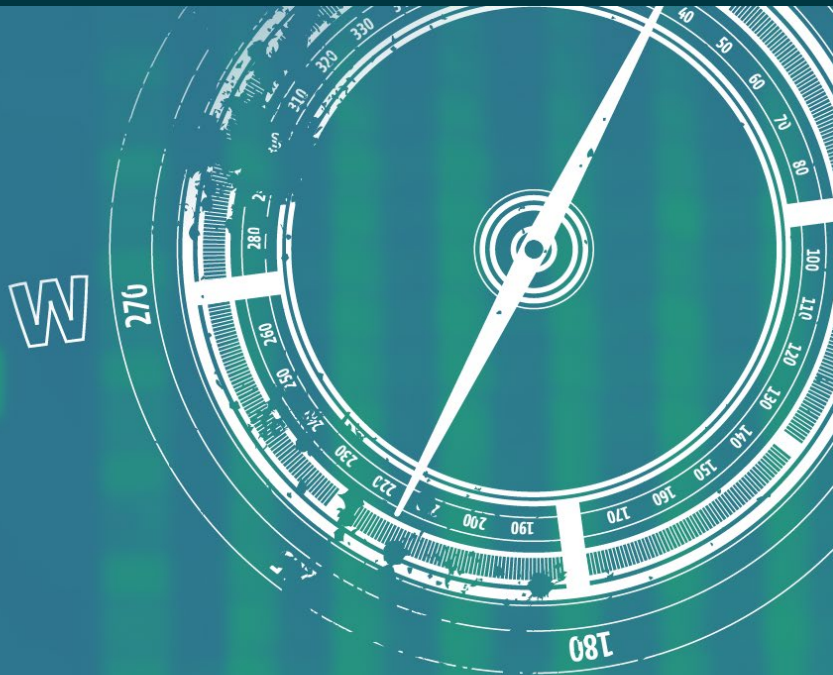
Quantitative and qualitative analysis



Quantitative



Qualitative



Nederlandse gedragcode wetenschappelijke integriteit

2018

Principles for Research Integrity

1. Honesty (eerlijkheid)
2. Scrupulousness (zorgvuldigheid)
3. Transparency (transparantie)
4. Independence (onafhankelijkheid)
5. Responsibility (verantwoordelijkheid)

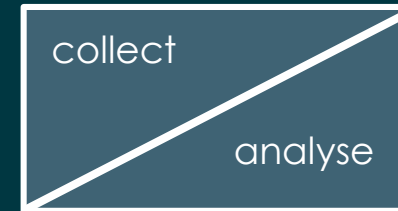
Standards for good research practices

- Design
- Conduct
- Reporting results
- Assessment and peer review
- Communication



Characteristics qualitative research important for Research Integrity

- ▶ Flexible and iterative process
- ▶ Own research instrument





Flexible and iterative research process

► Transparency (standard 35, Dutch research integrity code)

35. Be transparent about the method and working procedure followed and record them where relevant in research protocols, logs, lab journals or reports. The line of reasoning must be clear and the steps in the research process must be verifiable. This usually means that the research must be described in sufficient detail for it to be possible to replicate the data collection and its analysis



Flexible and iterative research process

- ▶ Transparency (standard 35, Dutch research integrity code)
 - ▶ ‘Audit trail’ => fieldnotes
 - ▶ Logs (diary)
 - ▶ Methodological
 - ▶ Theoretical
 - ▶ ‘Thick description’



Own research instrument

- ▶ Reflexivity
 - ▶ Be aware of your background
 - ▶ Think ahead of consequences



Own research instrument

- ▶ Reflexivity
 - ▶ Be aware of your background
 - ▶ Think ahead of consequences
 - ▶ Peer debriefing
 - ▶ Field notes (reflexivity notes)



Expertise

- ▶ Take only tasks that fall within your area of expertise
(standard 28)
 - ▶ Get yourself well educated
 - ▶ Supervision from expert



Good mentoring and social support

- ▶ Ensure that new researchers are supervised by suitable qualified persons (#4 Institutions' duties of care)
 - ▶ Impact of being own research instrument



Research integrity: what it means to qualitative researchers...

- ▶ Be transparent
- ▶ Be reflexive
- ▶ Be prepared / well educated



Thank you for the attention!