Qualitative methods in the study of development


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Abstract

Book synopsis: `This is an impressive work... and will provide the advanced reader with a rich source of theory and evidence. There is a huge amount to be got from the book and I suspect it will become a key work' - J Gavin Bremner, Department of Psychology, Lancaster University. The Handbook of Developmental Psychology is a comprehensive, authoritative yet frontier-pushing overview of the study of human development presented in a single-volume format. It is ideal for experienced individuals wishing for an up-to-date survey of the central themes prevalent to developmental psychology, both past and present, and for those seeking a reference work to help appreciate the subject for the first time. The insightful contributions from world-leading developmental psychologists successfully and usefully integrate different perspectives to studying the subject, following a systematic life-span structure, from pre-natal development through to old age in human beings. The Handbook then concludes with a substantive section on the methodological approaches to the study of development, focusing on both qualitative and quantitative techniques. This unique reference work will be hugely influential for anyone needing or wishing for a broad, yet enriched understanding of this fascinating subject. It will be a particularly invaluable resource for academics and researchers in the fields of developmental psychology, education, parenting, cultural and biological psychology and anthropology.

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Qualitative Methods in International Relations. Research Methods Series. Audie Klotz and Deepa Prakash (editors) QUALITATIVE METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS A Pluralist Guide. Forthcoming titles include: Lane Kenworthy and Alexander Hicks (editors) METHOD AND SUBSTANCE IN MACRO-COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. Research Methods Series Series Standing Order ISBN 978–0230–20679–3–hardcover Series Standing Order ISBN 978–0230–20680–9–paperback (outside North America only) You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Her research interests are in critical security studies, the discourse on 'terrorism,' and the identities of non-state actors, with a focus on South Asia. Qualitative research methods are most appropriate in situations in which little is known about a phenomenon or when attempts are being made to generate new theories or revise preexisting theories. Qualitative research is inductive rather than deductive and is used to describe phenomena in detail, without answering questions of causality or demonstrating clear relationships among variables. Scholarly writing about how to do urban studies research is sometimes explicit; often implicit in the methodologies urban studies scholars have actually employed in their research. Training in applied statistics is a regular part of most urban studies curricula. Urban studies students are trained to use computerized statistical packages to do quantitative analysis. Qualitative research seeks to answer questions about why and how people behave in the way that they do. It provides in-depth information about human behaviour. * Taken from: Aliaga and Gunderson 'Interactive Statistics '3rd Edition (2005). The development of Likert scales and similar techniques mean that most phenomena can be studied using quantitative techniques. This is particularly useful if you are in an environment where numbers are highly valued and numerical data is considered the 'gold standard'. However, it is important to note that quantitative methods are not necessarily the most suitable methods for investigation. The case study method exemplifies qualitative researchers' preference for depth, detail, and context.[9][10] Data triangulation is also a strategy used in qualitative research. [11] Autoethnography, the study of self, is a qualitative research method in which the researcher uses his or her personal experience to understand an issue. Grounded theory is an inductive type of research, based on ("grounded" in) a very close look at the empirical observations a study yields.[12][13] Thematic analysis involves analyzing patterns of meaning. Qualitative researchers may gather information through observations, note-taking, interviews, focus groups (group interviews), documents, and artifacts.[14][15][16][17][18][19][20]. Participant Observation[edit]. Qualitative Methods for Family Studies and Human Development serves as a step-by-step, interdisciplinary, qualitative methods text for those working in the areas of family studies, human development, family therapy, and family social work. Qualitative interviews guided by a semistructured interview protocol (Daly, 2007) and life history calendar tools (Axinn & Pearce, 2006; Sutton, 2010) were used in the first author's broader study of homicide survivorship (see Smith, 2013) to examine the frequency, developmental timing, and consequences of exposure to violent injury and violent death among this sample of young Black men in Baltimore, MD.