



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 06

Welcome to the second AQR Newsletter, one of a series that you will receive regularly. The aim of this newsletter is to provide an opportunity for members to share news and to find out about AQR's upcoming events.

AQR EVENTS

Upcoming AQR Events

Seminar and workshop program 2006: August to December

An exciting schedule of seminars and instructional workshops on issues related to qualitative research is being organised for 2006. The program for the second six months is described below:

Seminar/workshop Topic	Date and time	Presenter(s)	Venue
Data analysis approaches: looking at template analysis, thematic analysis & grounded theory, and deciding how to choose	22nd August, 5.30-7 pm	Anne Smyth and Carlene Boucher	RMIT Business, 239 Bourke St Melbourne Level 6, Room 6.29
Nvivo 7 software: Introductory workshop for beginners	To be advised	Lyn Richards and Helen Marshall	To be advised
Be positive about positivists: Presenting qualitative research to an audience that prefers quantitative	22 nd Nov, 5.30-6.30 pm (followed by AGM)	Jan Brace-Govan	Australian Council for Educational Research, 19 Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell

We also have the following seminar topics in mind for 2007, some of which we have potential speakers, others for which we don't. Please let us know if you have contacts who would be appropriate speakers for any of these:

- Researching and writing reflexively
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Narrative Inquiry
- Research participants: "sampling", recruiting and more
- Alternative ways of representing qualitative data
- Writing: as a method of inquiry, forms of writing
- Phenomenography

For further enquiries regarding the seminar and workshop program, please contact Anne Smyth on 0418 300 718 (anne.smyth@rmit.edu.au) or Claudia Slegers on 9570 5456.

2007 AQR Conference

Planning has commenced for the next Conference which will be held in Melbourne in November next year. More details will appear on the website soon. If you have any suggestions, ideas or questions please contact Carlene Boucher at carlene.boucher@rmit.edu.au or on (03) 99255914.

Previous AQR Events

'Researchers Who Have Turned', 26th April 2006

Presenters: Graham O'Neill and Anne Smyth

This seminar, a conversation between a PhD student and one of his supervisors, examined the journey in moving from a traditional positivist approach to researching qualitatively using grounded theory. Presented by Graham O'Neill (the candidate) and Anne Smyth (the supervisor), the seminar yielded issues and questions that go to the heart of how we create knowledge about the social world. Such issues include how the research process changes, and may become more iterative and less linear, when a grounded theory or other inductive approach is used. A number of useful methodological references were also provided by the presenters.

Nvivo7 Seminar, 24th May 2006

Presenter: Lyn Richards

Lyn gave the audience of around 25 participants an excellent overview of the important features of Nvivo7. She explained the improvements to the software and their rationale

and how these would support the analytical work of qualitative researchers. Essentially these revolved around greater user friendliness, flexibility and power. The interactive presentation and the many questions it generated enabled the discussion to focus on practical issues that preoccupy researchers using such software. The seminar was considered a really useful introduction with participants looking forward to a more detailed, hands-on workshop to be offered by AQR later this year.

Focus Group Workshop 17th June 2006

Presenter: Ros Hurworth

This full day workshop was fully subscribed by an enthusiastic group of researchers from a diverse range of backgrounds and contexts. Ros Hurworth took participants through highly interactive and practical look at the topic of focus groups. She provided a solid theoretical foundation for the focus group method and many opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the various phases involved. The group appreciated her willingness to share in a very detailed way, her extensive experience in this field. The feedback was very positive from both those currently using or planning to embark on the use of focus groups in their research endeavours.

OTHER EVENTS

Report on the International Institute for Qualitative Research Conference – from Dianne Goeman

The International Institute for Qualitative Research recently held their 7th Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference on The Gold Coast. The theme of the conference was looking to the future: opportunities and challenges for qualitative research. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for qualitative researchers to share their ideas and information about qualitative methods with a highly diverse audience of national and international researchers from a range of disciplines. Plenary speakers included Professor Janice Morse, Professor Nicky Britten and Dr Cathy Pope, Professor Julianne Meyer, Professor Julianne Cheek, Professor Phil Carspecken and Dr Brad Jackson. The IIQM will hold their next Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference in September 2007 in Banff.

Coming Events

6th Qualitative Research Conference in Health and Social Care

Bournemouth University United Kingdom 4th - 6th September 2006. Convenor: Dr Kip

Jones, Centre for Qualitative Research, Bournemouth University. Please contact Dr Jones if you wish to discuss your presentation: kipworld@gmail.com. Further information about the conference: <http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/ihcs/qrc06.html>

Colloquium – Circles within circles: Qualitative methodology and the arts: The researcher as artist

The starting point for this exciting two-day Colloquium is the idea, resulting from previous Masterclasses in qualitative methodology held at Swansea University, that there is an emerging ‘edgelands’ in qualitative enquiry – a space between established and new methods where new approaches are being developed, new theories examined and new ways of asking and answering questions formed (Rapport F et al 2005). Defined as ‘New Qualitative Methodologies’ (Rapport F 2004), these do not conform to neatly regulated patterns of events or outcomes. Rather, they argue for a relaxation of the rigid frameworks around data collection, the presentation of results and the interpretation of findings. By extending the boundaries, research can be a process of discovery, encouraging the unexpected, seeking fresh insights and theoretical perspectives and alternative epistemic positions from which to view the world.

<http://www.medicine.swan.ac.uk/documents/MasterclassFlyer2006.pdf>

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Do you need information about transcribing data more efficiently?

<http://www.audiotranskription.de/English/>

This website contains valuable information about purchasing and using both analogue and digital recording and transcription equipment. It also contains hints to help you make your transcription as quick and as accurate as possible. AQR does not endorse any of the products sold by this business.

Are you doing a PhD or Masters using Action Research?

This recently published article creatively explores the tensions that exist between the traditional thesis format and the principles of action research. Drawing on their own experiences, the authors suggest alternative approaches to thesis structure which it is argued are more congruent with the epistemological, methodological and ethical aspects of action research. Details: Fisher, K & Phelps, R 2006, *Recipe or Performing Art? Challenging conventions for writing Action Research theses*, Action Research, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 143-164.

New Books

Marshall, C & Rossman, G 2006, *Designing Qualitative Research*, Sage, Thousand Oaks. The complexities and conundrums that are a part of the qualitative research enterprise demand a solid, well-planned research design. In this new edition of their best-seller, Catherine Marshall and Gretchen B. Rossman continue to provide clear and direct guidance for writing successful proposals that fit into the framework of qualitative research. With expanded coverage of ethics, analysis processes, and approaches, *Designing Qualitative Research*, Fourth Edition is full of updated vignettes that illustrate the methodological challenges that face today's qualitative researcher. This edition also includes discussions about distance-based research (such as e-mail interviews and online discussion groups), the implications of postmodern turns, integrating archival material in qualitative research, and creative ways of presenting the research.

Anfara, V & Mertz, N (Eds) 2006, *Theoretical Frameworks in Qualitative Research*, Sage, Thousand Oaks.

In *Theoretical Frameworks in Qualitative Research*, the authors provide extensive and practical coverage of theory and its role in qualitative research, a review of the literature that currently exists on theoretical frameworks, a clear and concise definition of what a theoretical framework is and how one goes about finding one, and real-world examples of theoretical frameworks effectively employed by some of the world's leading qualitative researchers. The book will be invaluable to students and researchers who want to find detailed examples of their design options and who are still working through the various frameworks they could employ. The interdisciplinary nature of the framework examples used in the book (economics, politics, social theory, etc.) will also assist students in linking their own specific research questions to larger inquiry projects.

INTRODUCING THE AQR EXECUTIVE

Each edition of the newsletter will introduce you to a member of the Executive. In this edition we introduce your President Elect, Carlene Boucher.



Dr Carlene Boucher is Associate Professor of Health Services Management in the School of Management at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. Her research interests include the experience of difference in organisations, development of managers in the health industry (especially aged care). She uses (and supervises students using) a wide range of qualitative approaches including novel approaches such as art-based approaches and auto-ethnography.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION.....

More information about AQR, the AQR Journal, qualitative research resources and information about events can be found at:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/>

Contacting the Editor

If you have any queries, wish to provide feedback on this Newsletter or wish to provide information for inclusion in the next edition, please contact the Editor:

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