



ESA RN 20 – QUALITATIVE METHODS

Biennial Report

2015-2017

Outgoing Coordinators 2015-2017

Chair: Gerben Moerman gmoerman@uva.nl

Vice-Chair: Lukas Marciniak l.t.marciniak@gmail.com

Incoming Coordinators 2017-2019

Chair: Lukas Marciniak l.t.marciniak@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Florian Elliker florian.elliker@unisg.ch

Membership

RN 20 has currently (as of December 2017) 129 formally affiliated members that have paid the network fee. The members are from 27 different countries worldwide.

Cracow midterm conference 2016

ESA RN 20 Midterm Conference on Qualitative Methods took place at the Polish Academy of Learning, Cracow, Poland *1-3 September*. The conference theme was *Qualitative Methods and research Technologies* with a wide range of discussed issues including sophisticated research know-how, digitalization, use of innovative equipment and software and thoughtful debate on practical,

epistemological and ethical aspects. The call for papers attracted an about 180 abstracts. The number of conference participants was more than 140. The conference included 87 paper presentations, eight keynotes and one meet the author(s) session.

A day before the conference (31.08), seven specialized methodological workshops were organized including Conversation Analysis, Grounded Theory and Videography analytical workshops, Phenomenological methods and Doing Interviews workshops and one PhD Masterclass focused on qualitative data analysis during phd research projects.

The Keynotes were all of excellent quality, the discussions were lively. The eight keynote speakers are internationally renowned scholars in the field of qualitative research: Prof. Valerie Malhotra Bentz (Fielding University, US), Prof. Antony Bryant (Leeds University, UK), Prof. Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber (Boston College), Prof. Susan Danby (Queensland University of Technology, Australia), Prof. Nigel Fielding (University of Surrey, UK), Prof. Anssi Peräkylä (University of Helsinki, Finland), Prof. Michael B. Buchholz (IPU Berlin, Germany), Prof. Sheila Steinberg (Brandman University, USA)

The conference was hosted by the Polish Academy of Learning as a joint effort of the ESA RN, University of Lodz and Jagiellonian University.

Athens Conference 2017

RN 20 organised a total number of 16 sessions including around 60 presentations. Of these 16 sessions one session was a Keynote session. The sessions were very well attended, the rooms allocated to our RN turned out to be too small for several sessions. (Just as was the case in Prague 2015).

Two semi-plenary proposals were submitted, one with RN32 and one with RN24. Unfortunately, the proposal focussing on Robotisation and Racialisation with Science and Technology was considered not close enough to the conference theme. The proposal on Analysing Populism with Political Sociology was not selected because another proposal with the same speaker was favoured. For the joint session with Sociology of Sports RN28 not enough papers were received and the tow papers were included in a Sociology of Sports session.

With regards to the executive ESA-board, former RN20 chair Gerben Moerman ran as candidate. Disappointingly, he was not voted in. Hopefully next time there will be more space in the voting process to actually bring in some standpoints, rather than just a name, a photo and a short bio to vote for.

Publications

Edited volume appeared that is a direct result of the collaboration within the network:

- a) Silverman, David (2016). *Qualitative Research* (4th edition). London: SAGE.

Next midterm in St. Gallen

The *ESA RN 20 Qualitative Methods Midterm Conference* will be organised in St. Gallen, Switzerland from 6-8 September 2018. The theme of the conference is “Unspoken, Unseen, Unheard of Unexplored Realities in Qualitative Research”. Confirmed keynote speakers are, so far, Prof. em. Patricia Adler (University of Colorado, USA), Prof. Ross Koppel (University of Pennsylvania) and Vaike Fors (Halmstad University). The conference will provide the opportunity to discuss methodological challenges of studying unexplored realities in at least three directions (amongst others): 1) How do we account for the other senses than the visual and auditory sense in qualitative research—those senses that are not easily captured in language and thus frequently neglected? 2) The second focus concerns social spaces and domains of contemporary societies which constitute—for some or most of us—unknown subuniverses or backstages, that are kept marginalized, secret, or out of focus from public attention. (3) And thirdly, it concerns hidden and concealed domains, potentially inconvenient and uncomfortable realms that those involved in our research might not want to have exposed. These and other unexplored realities constitute challenges for qualitative methodologies.

For the former and the present chairs of RN 20

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Lukas Marciniak, Florian Elliker, Gerben Moerman