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Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Introduction

- PCP in academic psychology
- The rise of qualitative methods
- PCP methods as qualitative methods
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology

- subjectivist
- interpretivist
- constructivist or constructionist
- personal and social meaning rather than measurement or objective description
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Roots in:
- Social constructionism
- Phenomenology
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology

- Discourse analysis
- A ‘family’ of phenomenological approaches
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology
Phenomenology: ‘lived’ experience

- Focus on wholeness of experience
- Focus on individual meaning rather than causal explanation
- Description of experience via first-person accounts
- Reflexivity of researcher

(Moustakas, 1994)
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology
Phenomenological approaches include:

Grounded theory
Empirical phenomenological research
Heuristic research
Ethnography and narrative approaches
Hermeneutics
...and PCP
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Phenomenological approaches focus on subjective experience and the ‘life world’
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Narrative psychology (eg White and Epston, 1990)
- roots in phenomenology
- links with constructivism and social constructionism

“Narratives do not mirror the past, they refract it”

(Kohler Riessman, 2004: 708)
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Qualitative approaches and epistemology
Feminist psychology (eg Wilkinson, 1996)

Aims to give women and marginalised groups a ‘voice’
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Qualitative approaches and Epistemology

Importance of subjective experience
Democracy and ‘voice’
Not deterministic/essentialist
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis
Narrow range of methods of data collection and analysis

Predominance of:
- Semi-structured depth interview
- Thematic analysis
- Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (Smith, 1996)
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis

Other methods include:
- Template Analysis (King, 2004)
- Critical Narrative Analysis (Langdridge, 2007)
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis

Phenomenological interviews and analysis

- Descriptive
- Interpretative
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis

Phenomenological interviews and analysis

- Semi structured interviews and thematic analysis
- Interviewing is highly skilled
- Psychologically and socially complex issues are hard to articulate
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis
PCP: phenomenological qualitative methods
- The specific or ‘concrete’
- ‘imaginative variation’
- Role Repertory Test
- Repertory Grid Interview eg Butt, Burr and Bell (1997)
- Salmon Line (Salmon, 1994)
- Pictor technique (Hargreaves, 1979) eg Ross, King and Firth (2005); King, Melvin and Ashby (in press)
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Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis
PCP: phenomenological qualitative methods: The self characterisation sketch
- Observation of sequence & transition
- Observation of organization
- Reflection against context
- Collation of terms
- Shifting emphasis:
  - On the whole
  - he tries
  - to impress people
  - especially his elders,
  - with his knowledge
  - poise,
  - and sincerity
- Restatement of the argument
- Analysis of context, themes and construct dimensions
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Summary and conclusions

- Perceptions of things, people and events
- The nature of selfhood: self characterisation sketch
- Socially shared constructs and construal of relationships: family grids (Procter)
- The relational nature of selfhood
- Concrete and visual: eg Salmon Line and Pictor
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Summary and conclusions
- Laddering and pyramiding (Hinkle, Landfield and Fransella)
- Systemic bow-ties (Procter)
- Core process interviews (Jones)
- ABC (Tschudi)
- Who Are You? (Ravenette)
- Snakes and Rivers (Denicolo’)

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Summary and conclusions

- Qualitative Research
- Qualitative Enquiry
- Qualitative Health Research
- Qualitative Research in Psychology

- Present at other conferences