



University of HUDDERSFIELD

University of Huddersfield Repository

Butt, Trevor and Burr, Vivien

Making the most of methods: the future for PCP?

Original Citation

Butt, Trevor and Burr, Vivien (2009) Making the most of methods: the future for PCP? In: The XVIIIth International Congress on Personal Construct Psychology, July 20-24 2009, Venice, Italy. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/7958/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Viv Burr and Trevor Butt

Centre for Applied Psychological Research



University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Introduction

- **PCP in academic psychology**
- **The rise of qualitative methods**
- **PCP methods as qualitative methods**

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

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

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Roots in:

- Social constructionism
- Phenomenology

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

- Discourse analysis
- A 'family' of phenomenological approaches

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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)

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Phenomenological approaches include:

Grounded theory

Empirical phenomenological research

Heuristic research

Ethnography and narrative approaches

Hermeneutics

...and PCP

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Phenomenological approaches focus on subjective experience and the 'life world'

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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)

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and epistemology

Feminist psychology (eg Wilkinson, 1996)

Aims to give women and marginalised
groups a 'voice'

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative approaches and Epistemology

Importance of subjective experience

Democracy and 'voice'

Not deterministic/essentialist

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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)

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis

Other methods include:

- **Template Analysis (King, 2004)**
- **Critical Narrative Analysis (Langdridge, 2007)**

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis

Phenomenological interviews and analysis

- Descriptive
- Interpretative

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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)

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

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')

▪

Making the Most of Methods: The future for PCP?

Summary and conclusions

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

- Present at other conferences