

1st Short Courses (SC) on Qualitative Interviewing

December 2nd, 2022

General considerations



For background and organizational framework of these SCs, please check the Introduction to this series of slideshows

Sources of our preliminary manual:

- Brett, B. M., & Wheeler, K. (2022). ***How to do qualitative interviewing***. Los Angeles, London, NewDelhi, Singapur, Washington DC, Melbourne: Sage.
- Rubin, H. J., & Rubin, I. S. (2012). ***Qualitative interviewing: The art of hearing data*** (Third edition). Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC: Sage.

When setting out to compile a manual for our teams to prepare for qualitative interviewing in the GIRT project, we found an abundance of informative and instructive guidebooks on the topic. No need thus to reinvent the wheel - these are the books which we used:

In preparation of our virtual discussion, team members had done this pre-reading and discussed it in their local teams.

Pre-Readings for SC 1

- Roer-Strier, D., & Sands, R. G. (2015). **Moving beyond the 'official story': when 'others' meet in a qualitative interview.** *Qualitative Research*, 15(2), 251–268.
- Clapham, D. (2005). ***The meaning of housing: A pathways approach.*** Bristol: Policy. (Extracts only)






GIRT Reflexions and discussion on research philosophy

Where do you see yourself in the continuum described here between positivism and naturalism, and why?

How does this position of yours influence your research in GIRT?

What do you personally aim to find out within the GIRT framework?



Then our team met virtually to discuss our research philosophy in this project

GIRT Reflexions and discussion on research philosophy

- In positivism studies the role of the researcher is limited to data collection and interpretation in an objective way.
- The researcher is an objective analyst, and she/he distances herself/himself from personal values in conducting the study. In these types of studies research findings are usually observable and quantifiable

Positivist research philosophy

It claims that the social world can be understood in an objective way. In this research philosophy, the scientist is an objective analyst and, on the basis of it, dissociates himself from personal values and works independently.

- positivism relates to the viewpoint that researcher needs to concentrate on facts.

Just to make clear what we mean by the terms we use hereafter

- Positivism is based on the idea that science is the only way to learn about the truth.
- Positivism adheres to the view that only “factual” knowledge gained through observation (the senses), including measurement, is trustworthy.

Naturalism research philosophy:

- Emphasis that all meanings is sifted through people’s prior experience.
- People construct their understanding of the external world
- It is impossible to eliminate all biases and expectations by the researcher b/c they can not wipe out their own experiences.
- Meaning is always contextual and interpreted



We started by asking:

Where do you see yourself in the continuum between positivism and naturalism, and why?



Positivism

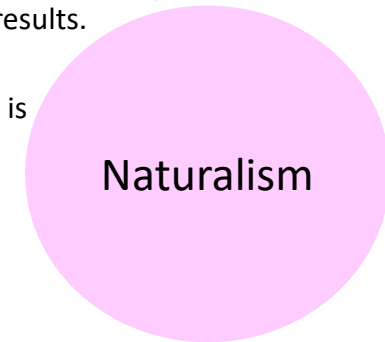
in Between
(both positivism & Naturalism)

source of wisdom is both from Positivism and naturalism

I see that the two methods are added to the study, the daily contact with the speakers of the informal settlement offers us an increased subsidy of the situation but without discovering the scientific hypotheses to prove them

My stance is one of naturalism. Because the researchers have personal experience with the subject of the study, combining their knowledge with that of the respondents will produce better results.

The naturalism takes control of all emotion and is opened to have much more data/information.



Naturalism

For this project, I see myself in Naturalism due to type of research that will take place. Naturalism is complex and take more time, but reaches many variables for the research. In other project positivism can be more adequate

I see myself mainly with naturalism.

The Naturalism will address the true interest of research for good insight

Naturalism – Because it uses many variables that positivism assumes to be clear

As one can see from the answers given, our group has a certain leaning

How does this position of yours (positivism - naturalism) influence your research in GIRT?

My position of constructivism led me to give more focus for participatory approach knowing the existence of locally specific and multiple realities.

Positivism helps to analyze GIRT research results quantitatively used to check the reliability & validity it helps to avoid bias. Whereas Naturalism helps investigate ideas about research targets views, ideas, opinions.

I am more naturalist in that i have done more quantitative research but in the last days i have been learning bit more about qualitative research.

Being a trans-disciplinary research approach, it necessitates the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including research teams with diverse backgrounds. Therefore, they may give sound its fullest meaning when all of these groups present their experiences.

different people can understand the same thing in different ways

I think the position of research philosophy influences GIRT greatly, as it has an impact for every form of research. The influence starts with how the researcher understand the problem at the beginning of the study. Then the methods and the proceeding activities depend on the philosophical thought we rely on.

by bearing that the GIRT research is mainly qualitative, if the ones position is quantitative therefore he or she has to orient him/herself in qualitative data collection. also it influences the nature of data collected

How do you see yourself as compared to informal settlers in your region?

- In terms of housing standard, the formal settlements are by far better.
- In terms of infrastructure; road, electricity, water supply, it is better
- In terms of services like shops, hotels resorts these are closer to the formal settlements



I think they have better social interaction than me

Language

In how far are informal settlers socially similar to and different from you?

1. Informal Settler are stronger socially than formal one
2. Solidarity is higher in IS because they share many things: WC, yard, children play in the same area;
3. More interaction in informal settlements;
4. More common habitats in IS;

Legal right - Informal settlers don't have legal right to access social facilities (eg. electricity, potable water)

Involvement in political issues- eg. election

Security- legal settlers are more secure

Structure of houses/ the settlement pattern- regular shaped and planned in the formal settlers

Similarity: Both are similar in sharing social equipment (public buildings/services) and roads, garbage collection system,... (I.S. they travel more to get it than F.S.)

similar in sharing the different social services ;schools, hospitals, markets, roads, religious institutions.

How far? They stay in distance because they don't share the different social activities, they don't take part of activities and lifestyle is also completely different (economic aspects, healthy, surrounding, housing, unemployment, feeding, community relationship is stronger in I.S.)

Similarities

Social capital (the strength may not be the same);

Cultural, religious

Language

Involvement in political issues- eg. election

Right to use social services like education and health facilities;

Difference

Structure of houses/ the settlement pattern- regular shaped and planned in the formal settlers

Legal right - Informal settlers don't have legal right to access social facilities (eg. electricity, potable water)

Security- legal settlers are more secure

Safety- legal settlers live in a safe area

Tax payment – formal settlers have the obligation for to pay tax

Communalities, Social capital (the strength may not be); Cultural, religious



I think they have more freedom than I do, a very strong interaction and coexistence between them

Yes, my relatives are living in.

Yes! My family still living there (informal settlers), not only close friends also. It gave me a general view about the settlers daily, but not deeply or strong enough.

Do you or your family have experience of living in informal settlements?

Your answer may not be a clear Yes or No. Place one of the blue sticky notes with your name nearer to the more appropriate answer!

Yes, My sister used to live

Yes

my colleague lives there

My aunty lived in informal settlement for some period of time

Yes

Yes, I do, for short time and also, I got family living there. I used to share experience with most familiar persons.

Yes. I have the experience

Yes, my close relatives living in the informal settlement.

Yes

Yes

Some of my relatives live there - And I lived for a short period of time

Yes. I have family and friends living in informal settlements

I kind of but there are many relatives still living there

I already has been in one for a few time.



What is your attitude towards informal settlements and their inhabitants?

I write articles to local newspapers about many dimensions of the informality and the problems inhabitants are facing every day in those areas

Sometimes I write short narratives taking place in informal settlements.



How do you think informal settlers see you?

in one way they may think as if we are rich persons and come up with a money to solve their problems.

on the other way they may think as we are from government officials going there to demolish their houses or another body who are interested to expose our informality and displeased from our settlement area.



That's how we finished
Short Course (SC) Nr.1

Stay tuned and watch
out for SC Nr. 2 to see
how we continued!