

PRE-CONFERENCE HALF-DAY WORKSHOP

Title

Conducting Qualitative Secondary Analysis from start to finish

Instructor (s)

Katie Greeno, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Jonathan Singer, Assistant Professor, Temple University

Abstract

Qualitative databases provide rich opportunities to extend social work knowledge after the original study questions have been answered. There are more opportunities than ever to extend social work knowledge through careful analysis of existing qualitative data. Techniques are beginning to be well established. This workshop will introduce conceptual and practice aspects of QSA by describing the presenters' experiences with an NIMH-funded interview study. The workshop uses a QSA completed by the instructors to introduce the principles of the technique. The case study will be used to illustrate and introduce general issues concerning QSA, as well as further resources describing these issues.

Topics addressed in the workshop include:

- Finding and/or developing opportunities to conduct QSA
- Getting to know the parent study
- Conceptualizing the question
 - Roles of the original investigative team
- Research methods applied to QSA
 - Design
 - Sampling
 - Developing the analytic strategy
- Conducting the analysis
 - Creating the codebook
 - Determining the main findings
 - Use of software
- Standards for rigor in qualitative design and analysis
- Writing the results

Special attention will be paid to standards for rigor in qualitative design and analysis throughout.

Career Level and Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites but attendees are assumed to have basic knowledge of qualitative epistemology and techniques. The workshop is appropriate for anyone. It may be of special interest to doctoral students interested in analyzing existing qualitative datasets.

Methods and Approach

The format will be primarily didactic, with a strong emphasis on interaction. Attendees with research questions already in mind will be invited to develop them interactively throughout the workshop.

Materials

Attendees will be provided with a synopsis of the material presented and a resource list for conducting QSA.

Presenter Bios

Catherine Greeno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, is a mental health services researcher. She has been Principle or Co-Principle Investigator on three NIMH-funded grants applying mixed methods to understanding mental health service use. Most recently, she served as Co-Principle Investigator of an NIMH-funded infrastructure grant designed to build a shared research infrastructure with community mental health providers. This work has contributed directly to changes in county policies and case management practice for people with severe mental illness. Her work in community-based participatory research and mixed methods studies has led to invitations to speak at NIH-sponsored training institutes and grant application reviews. She is an active mentor to doctoral students and junior researchers. She teaches research methods and social welfare policy at the BASW, MSW, and doctoral levels at the University of Pittsburgh.

Jonathan Singer, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Temple University is an experienced social work researcher, practitioner, and educator. He has direct practice experience with children's community mental health treatment emphasizing crisis response and suicide prevention. He has written about treatment models appropriate for community mental health, with an emphasis on cross cultural relevance. He is an expert in the applications of technology to social work education, and has pioneered podcasting for social work education applications. He presents nationally on clinical practice issues, including intervention with suicidal youth, clinical documentation, and culturally responsive practice. He teaches advanced clinical practice courses at the MSW level, and HBSE and practice courses at the BSW level. He has thorough grounding in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies that he has applied to successful QSA projects. His recent work includes the QSA conducted from Dr. Greeno's qualitative database that will provide the primary example described in the workshop.

Skills statement: At the end of the workshop participants will be able to identify sources for qualitative secondary analysis, will be able to conceptualize research questions in this area, will be familiar with the major methodological issues in conducting QSA, and will be able to access resources for further development of their skills.