Achieving Methodological Rigour In Qualitative Research

Date & Time: 24 Oct 2017, 9:30am - 11:30am
Venue: A703 Healthcare Research Centre
Caritas Institute of Higher Education

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Abstract

This seminar will present assertions that findings of qualitative research are trustworthy and transferable if the methods used are rigorous and if the facts derived from the research are representative in the concept, as opposed to representative in the number, and are proven in accordance with the standards of proof in law or science such as in particular the concept and strength of evidence. Examples will be given to demonstrate how data saturation can be achieved through a conscientious effort in data collection for example, by using theoretical sampling and identifying negative cases, and in data analysis for example by mandatory presentation of logical trees and total number of units of information. Other methods that are widely used to enhance methodological rigour will also be presented and examined, for example, the dos and don’ts of using focus groups, and the use of good practices in data collection such as use of multiple raters and establishment of audit trails, as well as good practices in data analysis such as assessment of data quality. Participants are encouraged to raise challenges that they have come across for discussion and identifying solutions.

Biography

Dr. K C Tang worked with WHO between 2002 and 2016 and was formerly Coordinator Health Promotion at WHO Geneva and was a member of the WHO Ethics Review Committee from 2008-2011 and an Editorial Advisor of the Bulletin of WHO from January 2009 to 2011. Prior to his appointment at WHO, Dr Tang taught at the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney from 1997 to 2001, and worked with the South Sydney Area Health Services from 1990 to 1996 in various capacities including as the Area Coordinator Health Promotion and a senior research fellow conducting a number of research projects using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Dr Tang also worked in HKSAR for about 10 years in social services. Dr Tang has published more than 60 articles and technical reports and has a h-index of 20, including peer-reviewed articles on qualitative research methods and articles using qualitative research methods.

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