

## Qualitative Research Methods

One benefit available to me as I developed qualitative research, was the insights provided by reading all of the submissions submitted to QHR, their reviews, and the authors' responses. This helped me stay current with the styles of qualitative research submitted from various schools and regions, and the way the different methods were used. It provided me with glimpses into advances and the pet peeves of others. Also, one venue that was available to me the opportunity to comment on methods in short *QHR* editorials. (These are open source, online in the next tab, *On Writing/Dissemination: Morse Open Source*.)

The large variety and approaches of qualitative methods used in my own quantitative research, as well as those students I supervised, were crucial for becoming adept in conducting qualitative methods. Using strategies in the different types of settings, approaches, with types of participants and varieties of data, in my own research programs and in that of my students and colleagues. Some of these methods developed into specialties in themselves—concept analysis, mixed-methods designs, grounded theory and ethnography—while other methods were used in individual projects. But I remained acutely aware about the different *perspectives* obtained by using different methods, and the cost of “half baked” research—primarily research that stopped at the level of the initial data sort (as in thematic or content analysis, for instance)—is for the discipline as a whole. I remain adamant that qualitative research is a creative endeavor, supported by formal strategies, principles of maintaining

rigor, and processes led by inquiry and that fit the circumstances and topic at hand.

In the teaching section, you will notice the number of basic qualitative courses taught. These were based on a number of qualitative methods, rather than teaching one method in-depth. And from these courses, several basic qualitative books emerged:

- Richards, L. & Morse, J.M. (2007). *Readme First for a Students Guide to Qualitative Research*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (2012) 3rd ed .
- Morse, J. M. & Richards, L. (2002). *Readme first for a user's guide to qualitative methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Field, P. A., & Morse, J. M. (1985). *Nursing research: The application of qualitative approaches*. London: Croom Helm. (reprinted 1987); Rockville, MD: Aspen (1985); London: Chapman & Hall, (1990, 1992 [twice], 1994). *Finnish translation*, Eila Sandborg (1988): *Hoitotyön Kvalitatiivinen Tutkimus*. Helsinki: Kirjayhtymä.

In addition. I wrote several handbook chapters addressing such topics as qualitative rigor, theoretical sampling, qualitative interviewing and analysis (See list in Chapters/Vita.)