

Postgraduate Psychology Research

Research and research methods training are a vital component of all psychology postgraduate programmes. At UWE we have a strong traditional of both quantitative *and* qualitative research and give equal emphasis to both in our postgraduate research methods training. Because we have a large staff group with a wide range of interests, students are able to undertake quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods research for their dissertations/theses.

Victoria Clarke is the module leader of *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Psychology* (or QQM for short) – the postgraduate research training module that sits in most of the psychology postgraduate programmes. Victoria, James Byron-Daniel, Nikki Hayfield, Irmgard Tischner and Paul White are QQM module team.

We are running an ***Introduction to SPSS and Qualitative Research workshop for new PG students***, from 10am to 5pm, on **Monday 15 September**. This will include a morning session on SPSS and quantitative research (10am-1pm with James), and an afternoon session on qualitative research (2-5pm with Victoria).

The other induction event organised by Victoria is the **2014 Psychology Postgraduate Conference**. This is an annual event, and students from all of the taught and research psychology postgraduate programmes will present their research. This is an opportunity to get a sense of the kinds of research that students on your programme undertake, and will hopefully give you some inspiration for your own research! The Conference has a relaxed and informal atmosphere and questions from the audience are encouraged. The Conference will be held on **Tuesday 23 September, from 10am-5pm**.

In previous years, students on our PG programmes have requested some guidance on preparatory reading about research methods to enable those students less experienced with research methods or those feeling a little rusty to do some background reading over the summer. We have listed below some recommended texts that provide accessible introductions to quantitative and qualitative methods in psychology. Because qualitative methods are less widely taught than quantitative methods, some students have particularly requested guidance with preparatory reading about qualitative methods. We have attached two papers that provide an accessible introduction to qualitative research in psychology:

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77-101.

Madill, A., & Gough, B. (2008). Qualitative research and its place in psychological science. *Psychological Methods*, 13(3), 254-271.

The recommended texts for QQM are as follows:

Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2013) *Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners*. London: Sage.

Companion website (available very soon!):
<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/braunandclarke/>

Coolican, H. (2009) *Research methods and statistics in psychology*, 5th edition. New York: Routledge.

Other good introductory texts for qualitative and quantitative methods include:

Quantitative methods

Breakwell, G., Smith, J. A. & Wright, D. B. (2012) *Research methods in psychology*, 4th edition. London: Sage. (Chapters 1-12, and 22)

Companion website: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/breakwell4e/main.htm>

Field, A. (2009) *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*. London: Sage Publications.

Companion website: <http://www.statisticshell.com/>

Howell, D. (2012) *Statistical methods for psychology*. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.

Howitt, D. & Cramer, D. (2008) *Introduction to research methods in psychology*, 2nd ed. Harlow: Pearson. (Chapters 1-16 and 26)

Qualitative methods

Howitt, D. (2010) *Introduction to qualitative methods in psychology*. Harlow: Pearson.

Patton, M. (2002) *Qualitative research and evaluation methods*, 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Smith, J. A. (Ed.), (2008) *Qualitative psychology: A practical guide to research methods*, 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Willig, C. (2008) *Introducing qualitative research in psychology: Adventures in theory and method*. Milton Keynes, McGraw-Hill Open University Press.

If you would like to read about research methods in the context of your subject area, we recommend the following subject-specific texts:

Counselling and psychotherapy

Heppner, P. P., Wampold, B. E. & Kivlighan, D. M. (2008) *Research design in counselling*, 3rd Edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education.

McLeod, J. (2011) *Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy*, 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Sport & Exercise Psychology

Sparks, A. & Smith, B. (2012) *Qualitative research methods in sport, exercise and health: From process to product*. London: Routledge.

Tenebaum, G., Eklund, R. & Kamata, A. (2012) *Measurement in sport and exercise psychology*. Leeds: Human Kinetics.

Health psychology

Marks, D. E. & Yardley, L. (Eds), (2004) *Research methods for clinical and health psychology*. London: Sage.

Murray, M. & Chamberlain, K. (Eds), (1999) *Qualitative health psychology: Theories and methods*. London: Sage.

Happy summer reading and we look forward to meeting you in September!

With best wishes,

Victoria Clarke, James Byron-Daniel, Nikki Hayfield, Irmgard Tischner and Paul White