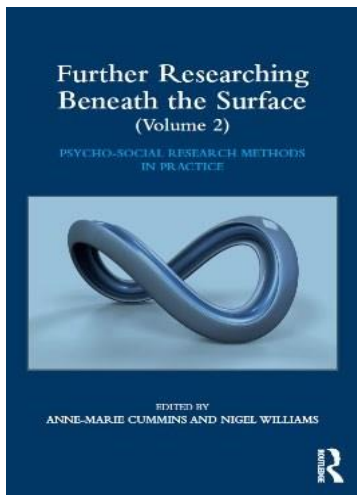


Researching Beneath the Surface

UZS7NU-30-M



This 30-credit postgraduate research methods module is offered by staff and researchers at UWE Bristol's Psycho-social Studies and Therapeutic Practices research theme within the Social Science Research Group.

The course is available as a stand-alone CPD course for external applicants, as an approved research methods module on the MRes degree (HAS) and to postgraduate students across UWE Bristol as part of the requirement to achieve 60 credits training in research methods. It will appeal not only to initial PhD researchers but also to those on allied Masters courses with a therapeutic focus and also practitioners wanting to develop more relationally based research.

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to demonstrate:

- a critical grasp of the epistemological implications of the existence of the *unconscious* in its dynamic and relational forms;
- an understanding of the connections between i) different ways of knowing and different methods of inquiry, ii) processes of inquiry and processes of intervention;
- a detailed grasp of the implications of an *understanding of the internal world* for traditional qualitative research methodologies, particularly interview and observation based forms of inquiry;
- an appreciation of a variety of *new methods of inquiry* into the unconscious life of the individual, organisation and society;
- the skills necessary to operationalise *at least two psycho-social methods* of inquiry in relation to own area of practice or research;
- a *reflexive awareness of the ethical issues* posed by 'deep inquiry' methods of data generation and analysis.

Syllabus outline

This will be guided by developments in the field as well as learners' requirements. It will present the epistemological underpinnings and processes of inquiry of a Psycho-Social research approach and *will draw most relevant material from each of the following themes:*

1. Epistemology:

Positivism, hermeneutics and depth hermeneutics - objectivity and validity in the exploration of human experience - the links between epistemology and methodology - Methodology: from research to inquiry to intervention

2. Putting the 'psyche' into social research:

The psychodynamics of the research encounter: transference/counter-transference; defended subjects/defended researchers. Double reflexivity – the interpenetration of power, affect and unconscious phantasy. Psycho-social approaches to interviewing and observation.

3. Methodologies of inquiry:

Life history/biographical interviewing - Psycho-social action research, Methods of Group Inquiry (Group Relations and Group Analytic traditions) - Visualisation Techniques: imagery, artwork, photography as methods of exploration - The use of dreams: individual and social dreaming - The ethics of 'deep inquiry'.

4. Data analysis 'in depth':

Interpretation and analysis: Psychoanalytic debates - non positivistic approaches to validity: dialogic models of objectivity - making sense of data: interview tapes and transcripts, notes of observations, fieldwork notes, reflexive diaries, imagery, etc. - The uses and limitations of computer software packages in data analysis - The ethics of 'depth' analysis.

Teaching and learning on the course

This includes experiential events, lectures and workshops, one-to-one tutorials and reflection and review events.

Assessment – May 2020

The assessment strategy is to create, with reference to psycho-social theoretical approaches, a bespoke assessment relevant to the research needs of participants. The assessment requires a project or portfolio equivalent to a project of 6,000 words.

A portfolio of evidence could include:

- A presentation with associated reflection.
- Production of a patient/service user information leaflet or video with associated reflection.
- A paper or letter prepared for publication with associated reflection.

Workshop dates 2020

- Thursday 16 January to Saturday 18 January 2020
- Thursday 27 February to 29 February 2020.

For further information and details on how to apply, please contact the Module Leader:

Anne-Marie.Cummins@uwe.ac.uk

Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences
UWE Bristol
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

Tel: +44 (0)117 328 2372

Recent student feedback

"This course has been instrumental. It has given me a foundation of theoretical understanding and the beginnings of practical application. As a result of attending the course I feel part of the psychosocial research community, both within UWE but also the wider community."

"This module has particularly opened a new avenue for me to consider in terms of researching and I intend to pursue further with this approach as I truly believe in the potential it carries for understanding both the conscious and unconscious reality of individuals."

"The course is and will be central to the development of my research and I am very grateful that I was able to participate at this stage."