

Peer Review

Review of: "Solving the Chaos of Qualitative Research Varieties"

Charlotte Ullrich¹

1. Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany

The paper states boldly right at the beginning that it aims to “solve the chaos of qualitative researcher varieties.” The paper approaches this task by “sorting” selected methods by overall approach, methods and techniques, and practical considerations. While this is not a new perspective, the suggested “dimensions and elements of qualitative research approaches” (table 1) might be helpful in becoming aware of the similarities and differences between the various approaches.

However, the article does not convincingly show who exactly would benefit from this type of “sorting.” Rather, it appears that this systematization is carried out largely for the sake of systematization itself.

In general, it is noticeable that in large parts of the paper, no reference is made to published literature. The paper would benefit greatly from integrating the broad international discussion on qualitative research approaches. It would also strengthen the paper if it reflected that qualitative approaches differ according to disciplines (e.g., ethnology, educational science, health science, psychology), especially regarding research objectives and theoretical traditions. The diversity of the different approaches could thus also be understood as appropriateness to the subject matter (rather than “chaos”). It would also be helpful if reasons were provided as to why and how the qualitative approaches discussed were selected.

While the suggested framework might offer some guidance, at this point, I cannot recommend this paper for publication.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.