

Review of: "Using concepts related to research design while writing thesis and dissertation at universities: questioning the status quo"

Yannis Dimitriadis¹

¹ Universidad de Valladolid

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The paper discusses the differences and commonalities of three relevant terms: research methodology, research method and research design, based on a narrative literature review. The author provides a suggestion regarding the definition and use of these terms.

The topic is relevant since these concepts are typically used inconsistently throughout research publications, while they should be carefully defined and used in each context. There are several underlying epistemological and ontological assumptions that influence the understanding and use of these terms. Therefore, a careful and thoughtful use of these terms can definitely produce more rigorous and clear research publications.

However, the paper is insufficient and not entirely convincing. The "narrative literature review" heavily depends on the interpretation of the author and the stance of the author has not been clearly stated in the paper, and therefore the inherent bias cannot be assessed. This element greatly influences the completeness and validity of the scope and set of alternative definitions and corresponding arguments. On the other hand, there is not a clear discussion of the alternatives, and therefore the proposal is not completely convincing. Finally, the implications are much broader than the one regarding the headings of the Master and doctoral theses, and they should be further discussed by the author.