Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing 1345

António Pedro Costa · Luís Paulo Reis · António Moreira · Luca Longo · Grzegorz Bryda *Editors*

Computer Supported Qualitative Research

New Trends in Qualitative Research (WCQR2021)

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Preface

This book contains a selection of the works accepted for presentation and discussion at the fifth World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR2021), held during January 20 to 22, 2021 (Virtual Conference). WCQR2021 was organized by Escola d'Infermeria of Universitat de Barcelona (Spain) and Ludomedia from Portugal. The conference organization also had the collaboration and/or sponsoring of several universities, research institutes and companies, including University of Aveiro /CIDTFF, National Centre for Research Methods (NCRMUK), Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA), Ibero-American Congress on Qualitative Research (CIAIQ), webQDA and Timberlake.

The conference's focus was on Qualitative Research with emphasis on methodological aspects and their relationship with research questions, theories and results. This book is mainly focused on the use of Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS) for assisting researchers in using correct methodological approaches for Qualitative Research projects.

WCQR2021 featured four main application fields (Education, Health, Social Sciences, Engineering and Technology) and seven main subjects: Rationale and Paradigms of Qualitative Research (theoretical studies, critical reflection about epistemological, ontological and axiological dimensions); Systematization of Approaches with Qualitative Studies (literature review, integrating results, aggregation studies, meta-analysis, meta-analysis of qualitative meta-synthesis, meta-ethnography); Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research (emphasis on research processes that build on mixed methodologies but with priority to qualitative approaches); Data Analysis Types (content analysis, discourse analysis, thematic analysis, narrative analysis, etc.); Innovative Processes of Qualitative Data Analysis (design analysis, articulation and triangulation of different sources of data—images, audio, video); Qualitative Research in Web Context (eResearch, virtual ethnography, interaction analysis, internet latent corpora, etc.); and Qualitative Analysis with the Support of Specific Software (usability studies, user experience, the impact of software on the quality of research and analysis).

In total, after a careful review process with at least three independent reviewers for each paper, 23 high-quality works from WCQR were selected for publication, comprising 81 authors from 8 countries, including Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, France, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Spain. The volume also features two invited papers authored by keynote speakers from the conference.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express a special word of acknowledgement to the members of the WCQR2021 organization—Catarina Brandão, Conceição Ferreira, Elizabeth Pope, Fábio Freitas, Nuria Fabrellas, Pilar Delgado Hito and Sónia Mendes—for their hard and fine work on the scientific management, local logistics, publicity, publication and financial issues. We also express our gratitude to all the members of the WCQR Program Committee and to the additional reviewers, as they were crucial for ensuring the high scientific quality of the event. We would also like to acknowledge all the authors and delegates whose research work and participation made this event a success. Finally, we acknowledge and thank all Springer staff for their help in the production of this volume.

January 2021

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Ethical Principles and Challenges for Qualitative Researchers

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Abstract. The ethics of qualitative research are a reflection of the different procedures and tools that characterise this type of research. Due to its characteristic features (Wiles 2012) and its circular and interactive nature (Rodríguez et al. 2005), ethical problems continuously arise throughout the entire qualitative research process. There are certain ethical considerations that are common to both qualitative and quantitative research. However, in the field of social science where qualitative research techniques are more frequently applied, these ethical issues are considerably complex given that researchers are influenced by a number of aspects intrinsic to the nature of the human phenomena being researched and which affect decisions regarding technical and procedural matters, information management and even dissemination. This situation influences the expertise, ethical quality and commitment of the researcher in relation to the generation and analysis of the materials upon which the work is based and improving the understanding by the scientific community of the phenomenon studied (Aspers and Corte 2019).

Qualitative researchers face a number of issues and challenges to ensure they carry out their research work in line with the principles expected of them relating to qualitative research, which are closely related to ethical values (Guba and Lincoln 1981).

Keywords: Ethics · Qualitative research · Research process · Qualitative researcher

1 Introduction

The topic of ethics and their codification is a matter of international debate in the field of qualitative research, given that due to the very nature of this research it gives rise to complex interactions between the parties producing both the data and the meanings assigned to those data, along with those responsible for interpreting and disseminating the data in scientific publications (Calderón 2015; Houghton et al. 2010). As affirmed by Wiles (2012), qualitative research raises certain added difficulties due to the fact that ethical concerns constitute an intrinsic aspect of the qualitative research paradigm.

Multiple issues arise nowadays: Is my research legitimate and appropriate or is it motivated by the need for publication due to solely academic reasons? Am I respecting international ethical research guidelines? Am I truly qualified to carry out this type of study? Evidently, there are no easy answers to the above questions and they apply

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