

Qualitative Approaches In Social And Geographical Research

Positivism	Interpretivism
Relationship between society and the individual	
Society shapes the individual - 'Society consists of 'social facts' which exercise coercive control over individuals' (Durkheim). People's actions can generally be explained by the social norms they have been exposed to through their socialisation, and their social class, gender and ethnic background.	Individuals have consciousness and are not just puppets who react to external social forces as Positivists believe. Individuals are intricate and complex and different people experience and understand the same 'objective reality' in different ways and have individual reasons for their actions.
General focus of social research	
The point of research is to uncover the laws that govern human behaviour, just as scientists have discovered the laws that govern the physical world. Sociologists should use similar methods and approaches to the natural sciences. Prefer quantitative methods which allow for the researcher to remain detached from the respondents.	The point of research is to gain in-depth insight into the lives of respondents, to gain an empathetic understanding of why they act in the way that they do. Sociologists need to use non-scientific methods to see the world through the eyes of the actors doing the acting. Prefer qualitative methods which allow for close interaction with respondents.
Preferred research methods	
Quantitative Official Statistics Social Surveys Questionnaires Structured Interviews	Qualitative Personal Documents Participant Observation Unstructured Interviews
Require research to be valid, reliable and representativeness	Prepared to sacrifice reliability and representativeness for greater validity
Key Terms	
Objective Detachment Trends/ Comparisons Correlations/ 'Causes' Generalisability Scientific	Subjective Interaction/ Involvement/ Rapport Feelings/ Verstehen/ Empathy Thick Description Individual Motives Humanistic

Environmental management straddles the natural and social sciences. The problems it addresses, likewise, are capable of being tackled. Key words: methods, qualitative evaluation, social geography, different approaches to investigation (see, for addressing the research methodology, methods). Qualitative research is the collection of information about human behaviour and Triangulation is the use of multiple research methods for data collection to. The ethnographic approach to qualitative research comes largely from the field of ethnicity and geographic location (e.g., the culture of the Trobriand Islands). Much of the current qualitative scholarship in geography can be characterized as . Using Social Theory: Thinking Through Research. London. Qualitative forms of inquiry are considered by many social and behavioral scientists to be as much a perspective on how to approach investigating a research. Guest Editors: Stefan Bernhard (Institute for Employment Research Nuremberg), Andreas Herz (University of Hildesheim), Luisa Peters (University of. A qualitative geographical information systems (QGIS) approach was taken to with studies showing the impact of both the physical and social environment. phenomena, qualitative research approaches acknowledge and seek the multiple and partial versions of . social sciences in general, including in geography. Qualitative Research Methods for Geographers This course provides basic knowledge on the qualitative methods and qualitative research in geography. The position of qualitative methodology and of qualitative data in social sciences. By L J Philip; Abstract: The author addresses the potential of a multiple-methods approach in human geography, an approach to social research. ous qualitative approaches (e.g. ethnography, case studies and discourse analy Social, Cultural and Economic Geography and Geodesy have been using a.

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