

INVITED PANEL (THURS 18/6_17:45-20:30_KEDEA#1)

Creating bridges between European qualitative researchers.

As EQuiP is a new association, trying to bring together qualitative researchers in psychology from all European countries, this panel aims to 'create bridges' between people and research traditions of different European countries, through taking a simple first step: introducing ourselves to one another!

We envisage this to be an interactive and lively session, during which speakers briefly describe the situation of qualitative research in psychology in their country.

- ✓ *how developed qualitative psychology research is in your country,*
- ✓ *what fields of psychology are covered,*
- ✓ *which research methodologies are more popular,*
- ✓ *where qualitative research is done and by whom*

We envisage this not as a formal talk from the podium, but *as a series of informal brief presentations of participants taking the microphone and speaking while being placed amongst the audience.*

	PRESENTER	COUNTRY
1	Genie Georgaca	Greece
2	Carolin Demuth	Germany
3	Asztrik Kovács	Hungary
4	Ingrid Schele	Sweden
5	Themis Apostolidis / Nikos Kalampalikis	France
6	Nebojsa Blanusa	Croatia
7	Jan de Mol	Belgium
8	Maria del Rio Carral	Switzerland
9	Lorentzo Montali	Italy
10	Marco Gemignani	Spain
11	Radomír Masaryk	Slovakia
12	Aglaja Przyborski	Austria
13	Anneke Sools	Netherlands
14	Svend Brinkmann	Denmark
15	Irina Todorova	Bulgaria
16	Jarl Wahlström	Finland
17	Sue Widdicombe	Scotland
18	Joanna Brooks	UK
19	Maria Dempsey	Ireland



Qualitative Research in Psychology in Europe

18-20.06.2020 • Thessaloniki, Greece

INVITED PANEL (SAT 20/6_12:30-14:00_KEDEA#1)

Pluralism in qualitative research: benefits, challenges and prospects.

Qualitative research has experienced an explosion of new and creative methodological procedures and an increasing diversification and pluralism over the past decade. While some researchers celebrate the new pluralism as liberation from hegemony and as the end of “paradigm wars” within qualitative research, others see a danger in “meshing” methodological procedures as integrating diverse qualitative approaches may create some tensions with regard to combining different epistemologies and sometimes also ontologies.

In this panel, we want to discuss the following questions: What are the *benefits* of plurality in qualitative research in psychology and what are some *challenges* we encounter? What might be the *prospects* with regard to future developments?

Some points for discussion are:

- Avoiding dogmatism – Qualitative Research is creative in nature - does this mean ‘anything goes’?
- Do we need new methods? Or is there a risk of developing ever new “techniques” without being clearly rooted in a specific theoretical approach – in contrast to the old spirit in qualitative research to work within specific “schools” and research traditions and closely develop methodological procedures from these theoretical perspectives and epistemologies. Is there a risk of losing conceptual clarity between the philosophical underpinnings of the various methodologies, i.e. differences in epistemology and ontology?
- Should we even depart from traditional ideas of how we establish scientific knowledge and focus on the pragmatic outcome, as some post-modern scholars suggest?
- Pluralism as using multiple methods to investigate complex social questions – what is the difference from triangulation and method integration?

PANEL MEMBERS: Uwe Flick, Michael Bamberg, Nollaig Frost, Brendan Gough, Marie Santiago-Delefosse



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INVITED SYMPOSIUM (SAT 20/6_15:00-16:30_KEDEA#1)

Qualitative Research in South Europe: Cultural Innovation, Challenges, and Opportunities

Organizer: Marco Gemignani (Universidad Loyola, Spain)

Discussant: Thémis Apostolidis

Despite the steady growth of qualitative research in psychology in South Europe, this movement has experienced various challenges mostly related to static epistemological traditions in the academia. Yet, at the same time, various community-based events have contributed to shifting social orders and changing academic sensibilities toward collaborative and critical approaches to knowledge. In addition, the increased presence of qualitative research within EU funding schemas might contribute to potential changes in the dominant paradigm. This change is not coming just from scholarly considerations about science, but also from bottom-up and community-based needs in the South Europe societies. For instance, the refugee crisis is a key focus of social research, especially in border countries of Europe. One of the presentations will critically analyze the possibilities for ethical and justice-based research with refugee populations in Greece. France's tradition in Social Representation Theory also represents a mayor area of research for qualitative psychologists, especially for its relevance to critically analyze cultures and normative practices, both within the field of health psychology and within methodologies that are still based on positivism and empiricism. The presentations concerning qualitative psychology in Spain and Italy also underscore the ongoing challenge of bringing methodological innovation and critical thinking about epistemology and science within mainstream psychology. Both presentations underscore the potential for innovation that may come from deconstructions and reconstructions of careers and gatekeepers in psychology, as well as from engaging with specific subversive actions, such as the creation of a Spanish association for the promotion of innovative qualitative research.

Presentation 1:

Presenter: Philia Issari, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Practical and academic challenges and possibilities of conducting research with refugee people in Greece.

In this presentation I reflect upon practical and academic challenges and possibilities of conducting research with refugees in Greece—drawing mainly upon qualitative participatory studies conducted within the context of the Centre for Qualitative Research in Psychology and Psychosocial Well-being and in collaboration with the Organizations Médecins du Monde and Red Cross. I will explore research challenges and possibilities from a social justice perspective which emphasizes an ethic of care, as well as a non pathologising stance in relation to human issues, and advocates that the research processes and outcomes need to go beyond academic discourse, to benefit people, and to be socially relevant and sensitive, raising awareness and mobilizing stakeholders and community actions.



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Presentation 2:

Presenter: Thémis Apostolidis, Laboratoire de Psychologie Sociale (EA 849), Aix Marseille Université, LPS, Aix-en-Provence, France

Triangulating for doing qualitative social psychology: challenges from a French example

In South France the two last decades a “social psychology of health” was developed as a research and intervention practice focusing on solving health problems in the different social and cultural contexts in which they occur. In order to approach phenomena in their natural environment of emergence and in a holistic manner, triangulation has been used as a qualitative research strategy enabling a contextualized approach to be taken to the phenomena studied. Triangulation research strategy was developed based on the epistemological and theoretical framework of Social Representations Theory (SRT). The SRT focuses on how individuals and groups make sense of the world around them by actively creating their own reality based on shared knowledge. SRT is a social phenomenological approach which emphasizes on the implementation of a contextualization exercise on the phenomena studied by using methodological polymorphism. We present examples illustrating several forms of triangulating procedures for studying representational phenomena related to the construction of health and illness (e.g. methodological, theoretical and/or researcher). We discuss the importance of a deeper understanding of the cultural, normative and ideological roots of health practices, which yet seems to have little to do with health issues *per se* in the specific socio-historical context of our contemporaneity. We challenge triangulation as a meaningful and dynamic research paradigm for conceiving theory-driven methods designs in psychology and for generating empirical and theoretical knowledge.

Presentation 3:

Presenters:

Silvio Ripamonti, Università Cattolica, Italy

Alessandra Frigerio, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Qualitative research in social and organizational psychology: the Italian way.

This presentation provides a description of qualitative research in Italian social and organizational psychology. The first section of the article identifies three major historical periods for the development of qualitative methods in Italy. In the second section, we present a review of the qualitative articles published in the last five years. Our analysis shows that the health field stands out as having the greatest number of publications, both for social and organizational psychology; the absolute prevalence of the interview as a data collection method; and that Grounded theory, Discourse analysis, and Conversation analysis are the most cited references for data analysis. We discuss these results in relation to the set of rules that regulates the careers of researchers in Italy (and abroad), and to the only partial acceptance of qualitative research in Italian psychology.



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Presentation 4:

Presenter: Marco Gemignani, Universidad Loyola, Spain

Rediscovering the roots and wonder of qualitative psychology in Spain: A cartographic exercise

We report and interpret the results of an online survey in which 47 qualitative researchers in psychology answered questions about the strengths and challenges of being a qualitative researcher in Spain. The participants enthusiastically endorsed the use of qualitative methodologies, which were especially praised for being able to bring researchers closer to the roots of psychology by acknowledging fundamental human processes such as interpretation, depth in data collection and analysis, research rapport, care, epistemological and cultural diversity, and commitment to social justice. They also pointed out some practical challenges related to methodological standardizations and feeling undervalued within Spanish psychology, which tends to be positivist, empiricist, and realist. The participants provided specific suggestions to increase the knowledge, visibility, and appreciation of qualitative methodologies in psychology in Spain. In concluding this presentation, we will explore the possibilities and challenges of forming a Spanish association of qualitative psychology.