

Qualitative research for physiotherapy practice: Past, present, future

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Qualitative research for physiotherapy practice

- **CRF in 2009**
- **Past: Where do we come from?**
- **Present: Where are we now?**
- **Future: Where do we go from here?**
- **Take home message**

Von Outcome zu Interaktion: von quantitativer zu qualitativer Forschung



Veronika Schoeb
Clinical Reserach Forum
9. Mai 2009

Reflections in 2009

- **Start of research in known waters (quantitative cohort studies)**
- **Methods linked to research questions**
- **Shift from quantitative to qualitative studies**
- **Argumentation more often needed for qualitative studies (p.ex. Ethics committee)**
- **Gold Standard for research in physiotherapy?**

Take home message in 2009

- **Potential for physiotherapy**
- **Critical reflection regarding professional practice**
- **Collaboration with other disciplines**
- **Research communities for exchange and debate**
 - National
 - International
- **1st meeting at Physioswiss Conference in Basel**

Past: Where do we come from?

- **Article written in 2012**

Kinesither Rev 2012;12(127):85–93

Savoirs/Recherche



La recherche qualitative en physiothérapie : quelle place mérite-t-elle ?

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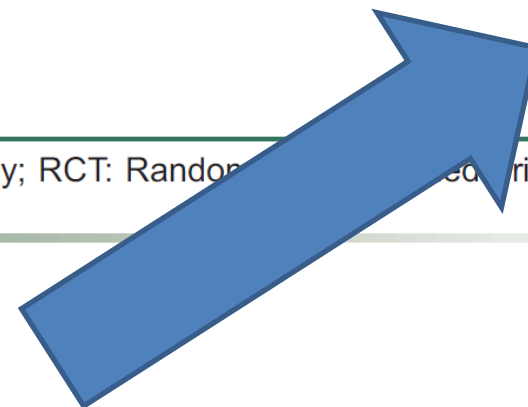
2012: Number of qualitative research articles

Tableau I. Articles sur Medline par année et type de recherche.

Medline (année)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Nombre d'articles total : MeSH : PT modalités OR PT specialty	478	511	600	705	784	915	986	1148	1228	1478	1547	10380
Limits : RCT, Systematic review, clinical Trial												
Nombre d'articles MeSH : QR AND (PT modalités OR PT specialty)	2	1	1	13	7	8	12	16	23	29	35	147

MeSH : Medical Subject Heading (Descripteur pour Medline); PT: Physiotherapy; RCT: Randomized Controlled Trial; QR: Qualitative research.

147 articles from 2000 to 2010
476 articles from 2011 to 2018



Main arguments

- **Qualitative research is complementary to quantitative research**
- **Scientific approach needs to be rigorous and systematic**
- **Different methodologies are utilized for qualitative investigations – different theoretical positions**
- **Qualitative research not only “interview studies”**

Theoretical positioning

Tableau II. Catégorisation de la recherche qualitative (Flick, 2009 [11]).

	Approche subjective	Analyse des interactions	Analyse des structures profondes
Positions théorique (méthodologie)	Interactionnisme symbolique Phénoménologie	Ethnométhodologie Ethnographie Constructivisme	Psychanalyse Structuralisme
Méthode de récolte des données (méthode)	Entretien semi-structuré Entretien narratif Focus groups	Observation Enregistrements vidéo Documents Focus groups	Enregistrements vidéo/audio Photos Documents
Méthode d'analyse	Analyse du contenu Analyse narrative	Analyse du discours Analyse conversationnelle	Analyse herméneutique

Present: Where are we now?

- **Qualitative research requires a methodology**
- **Ontology and epistemology**
- **Quality criteria are identified**
 - Theoretical positioning
 - Coherence between ontology, epistemology, methodology and methods
 - Reflexivity
 - Transparency
- **Several researchers in Switzerland and abroad and a vibrant interdisciplinary qualitative research community in physiotherapy**

New generation: Master theses

**The Impact of Patient-Physiotherapist
Interaction on Home Exercise
Adherence: A Qualitative Approach**

Wie beurteilen Schweizer
Physiotherapeutinnen
Patient 3.0 in der Praxis?

Direct Access to Physiotherapy in Switzerland:

A Qualitative Study of Key Stakeholders' Opinions, Barriers to
and Facilitators of the Establishment of Direct Access

**Reflection in clinical education of
undergraduate physiotherapy students in
Switzerland: an ethnographic approach**

What is the problem today?

- **“Qualitative research is easy”**
- **“Interview study is a methodology”**
- **“Saturation is reached with 10 participants”**
- **“20 minutes is enough for an in-depth interview”**
- **“Reflexivity: what is that?”**
- **“Everybody can review a qualitative study”**
- **“Mixed method research is just to add a few open-ended questions to a RCT”**

Study with methodological issues – who reviewed it?

Originalarbeit

Thieme

In den Forschungsethikkommissionen müssen Physiotherapeuten vertreten sein, denn nur so können die Kommissionen lernen, was es heißt, in Physiotherapie zu forschen

Qualitative Studie zur Wahrnehmung von ethischen Herausforderungen in der Physiotherapieforschung in der Schweiz

Physiotherapists Must Be Represented in the Research Ethics Committees, because this Is the Only Way the Committees Can Learn what It Means to Do Research in Physiotherapy

Qualitative Study on the Perception of Ethical Challenges in Physiotherapy Research in Switzerland

Autoren

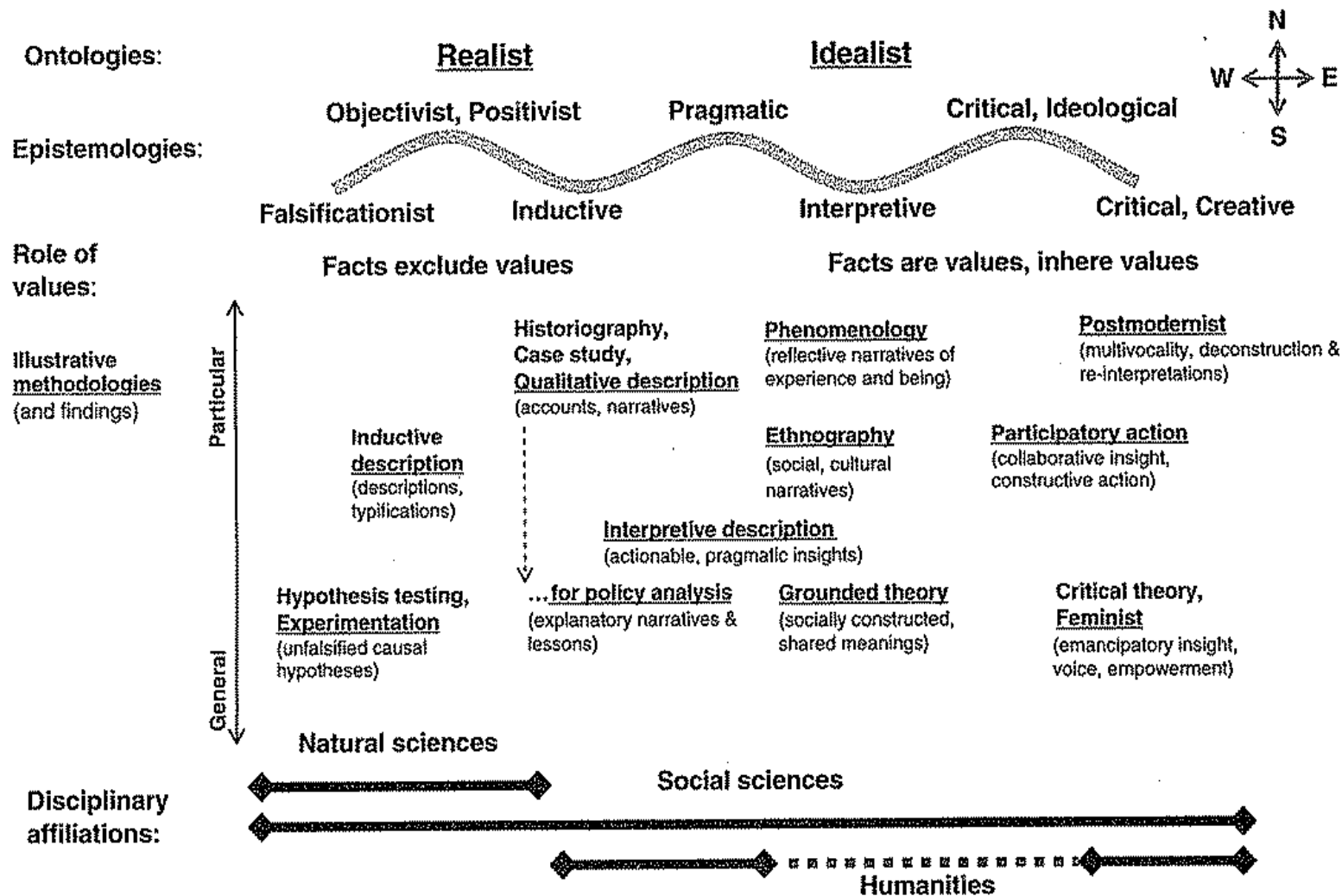


Figure 7.2 Health research traditions, by ontological & epistemological neighbourhood

Giacomini (2010)

Where are we now?

- **Critical physiotherapy Network**

<https://criticalphysio.net/>

- **Physios with PhD in qualitative research**
- **Doctoral programs**
- **Book:**

<https://press.nordicopenaccess.no/index.php/noasp/catalog/book/29>

Manipulating practices

A critical physiotherapy reader

Barbara E. Gibson, David A. Nicholls, Jenny Setchell and Karen Synne Groven (eds.)



CAPPELEN DAMM AKADEMISK

Future: Where do we go from here?

- Qualitative research's interpretive and constructionist approach has traditionally complemented the positivist attributes of adherence to a realist perspective, trust in causal knowledge, and reliance on deductive reasoning. These two approaches, together, provide rich literatures, and their coexistence is important
- If interpretive, constructivist researchers adopt positivism, research will produce weak, mundane, and objective reports rather than insightful theoretical understanding

What does this mean?

- **Positivist-minded researchers do qualitative studies**
 - Intercoder reliability
 - Frequency of codes
 - Privilege of traditional, positivist, scientific methods
 - Interview “protocols” rather than interview guides

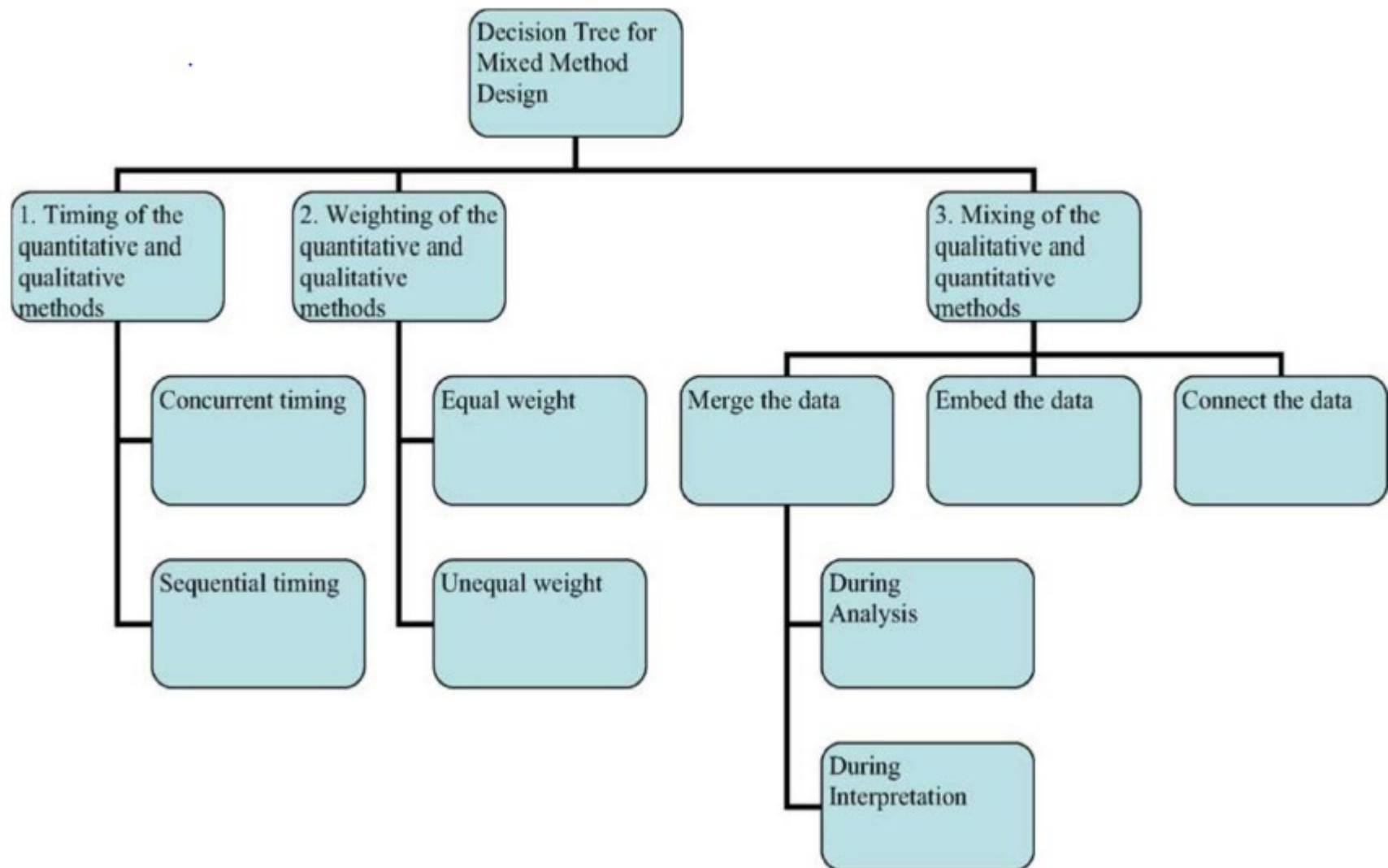
van den Hoonaard (2018)
- **Mixed method studies with real interaction lived by two teams**
 - Acknowledgment of differences
 - Debate and discussion

Mixed method research (MMR)

- Sequential vs. concurrent design:
 - Sequential explanatory: Quantitative data collection and analysis is followed by qualitative data collection and analysis. The interpretation includes the entire analysis
 - Sequential exploratory: Qualitative data collection and analysis is followed by quantitative data collection and analysis. The interpretation includes the entire analysis
 - Concurrent: Both quantitative and qualitative data are collected and analyzed. The data and results are continuously compared.

Rauscher & Greenfield (2009)

Figure 9.1: Decision tree for mixed methods design (Hanson et al, 2005)



MMR is not easy



Challenges and guiding principles

Curry et al (2012)

Challenges	Suggested guiding principle for addressing the challenge
Dealing with differences	Let people have their groups Foster and sustain respect among team members
Trusting the 'other'	Make all group memberships discussable without penalty Encourage and support candor
Creating a meaningful group	Establish a minimum shared commitment to the project's overall goal Enable team member to speak freely without fear of blame, criticism, or rebuke Support members in sharing mixed methods team views with their home group Develop a common language Ensure time and processes to enable information exchange Articulate roles, responsibilities, and processes Create a safe space
Handling conflicts and tensions	Normalise the essential tensions Recognise the temptation to withdraw Establish mechanisms for conflict resolution
Enacting effective leadership roles within team	Treat leadership as a role rather than an individual characteristic Balance issues of relationship and task

Take home message

- **We have come a long way!**
- **Past and present have been consolidated**
- **There is much to do in the future**
- **Being humble**
 - “Schuster, bleib bei Deinen Leisten”
 - “Stay with what you know”
 - “A chacun son métier”
- **Be inclusive and collaborate**
- **Continue to be critical, innovative, creative and bold – that’s what physiotherapy profession needs**



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**THANK YOU VERY
MUCH FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**