

Research Methods II

Quality in Psychological
Research



Quality in Research

- Study quality reflects the extent to which a study has taken appropriate measures to minimise bias and error from inception to reporting of findings.
- Good quality research provides evidence that is robust, ethical, stands up to scrutiny and can be used to inform policy making.

Searching for literature

- BEFORE conducting research, you need to ensure it is built on solid foundations – **Literature!**
 - Important to familiarise yourself with:
 - Available databases (ScienceDirect, PsycArticles, Web of Science, etc)
 - Defining your keywords
 - Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT, SAME, etc)

Considerations

Research design

- Appropriate research design that fits research purpose

Sampling

- Who will take part?
- How will you recruit them?
- What do you need to consider before recruiting?

Data collection

- What data is required?
- What are Ps required to do?
- Data collection should be systematic
- Appropriate measures

Ethics

- BPS ethics appropriate to design and method of data collection
- BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct

Data analysis

- Appropriate analysis chosen that fits data
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis should be justified

Quantitative Research

Collection of numerical data

More important to do the science **well** than have ground-breaking findings

Embrace uncertainty, and don't panic if you don't find what you expected

Ask for support!



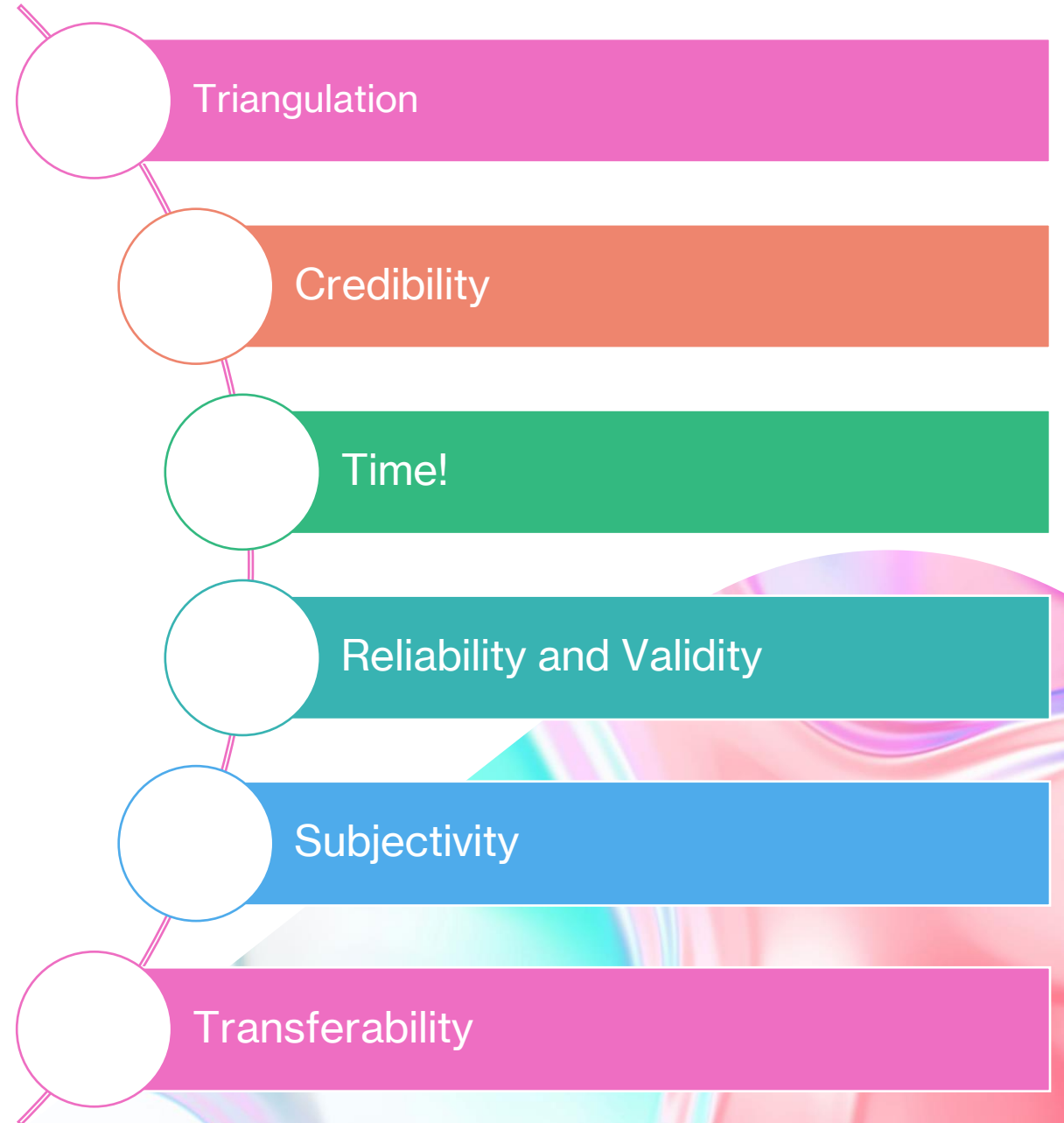
Qualitative Research

Collection of (normally) textual data

Qualitative research is **not** quick and easy!

You're not looking to generalise your findings – focus on the participants experiences and discourse

Ask for support!



A research study can be viewed as a piece of a mosaic – the pattern only emerges when standing and looking at the mosaic as a whole

- A single piece of research cannot just be considered on its own
- Important to view the piece in relation to a broader picture
- A research study can be viewed as a piece of a mosaic – the pattern only emerges when standing and looking at the mosaic as a whole
- Your study is just one tiny piece of this mosaic – but it still needs to fit!



Reporting Guidelines

- We adhere to APA conventions for report writing
 - ‘House rules’ document outlines all required headings, formatting of tables, etc
- Ensures consistency of information reported across discipline