

Qualitative Research

Choosing a topic for research

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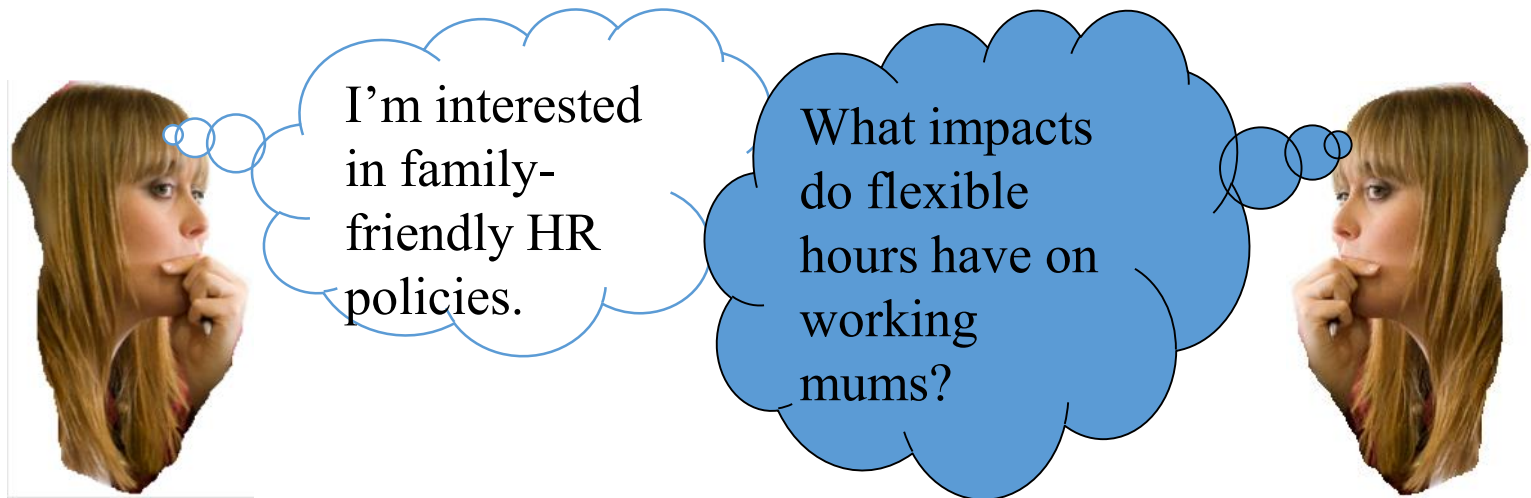
- Your topic should be:
 - Related to your research interests
 - Related to theories and the literature
 - Able to generate some new information about the real world
 - Do-able in the time available

What makes a good R topic?

- 1) Value – how beneficial will it be to know more about the topic?
- 2) Feasibility – can I reasonably expect to fully explore my topic within the scope of the research project?

Research Questions

- By asking specific questions about our topic, it is much easier to see what we want to find out and what information we need.



How do I formulate my question?

- Think about your research topic
- Ask yourself, what about this topic do I actually want to find out?
- Frame it as a question that you hope to be able to answer one day.

Good research questions often begin with asking words:

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?
- How much?

Be honest about what you already know.

- Your RQ should give you scope to learn something you do not already know.
- Be explicit and honest about what you already know about your topic.

This allows you to make a clearer rationale for your research question.

Checklist for research questions

- 1) Is the question interesting?
- 2) Is there a social or practical value in knowing the answer to this question?
- 3) Can you realistically expect to answer it within the limits (time and cost) of the project you are going to undertake?
- 4) Does the question suggest the kind of information you would need to answer it, and how you would go about getting that information?
- 5) Would it be feasible to get the information necessary to answer the question?