University of Wales Trinity Saint David & Hong Kong Management Association

Day Five

Qualitative Research Methods

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Research Interpretation and Ethical Procedures

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Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations

- Our roles as insiders/outsides to participants
- Issues we fear to disclose
- Respectful, trusting relationships without stereotyping and labelling
- Acknowledge whose voices will be represented in our final study

- Write ourselves into the study by reflecting on who we are & people we study
- Sensitivity to vulnerable populations
- Imbalanced power relations
- Possibilities of placing participants at risk

Critical research ethics

- Expose the diversity of realities
- Engage with the webs of interaction that construct problems in ways that lead to power/privilege for particular groups
- Reposition problems and decisions toward social justice
- Join in solidarity with the traditionally oppressed to create new ways of functioning

Ritchie and Rau (2010)
as cited in Denzin & Lincoln, 2018 p.177

Ethics and Science

> The ethics and the science must be understood as complex, must always be fluid, and must continually employ self-examination

Denzin and Lincoln, 2018, p. 176

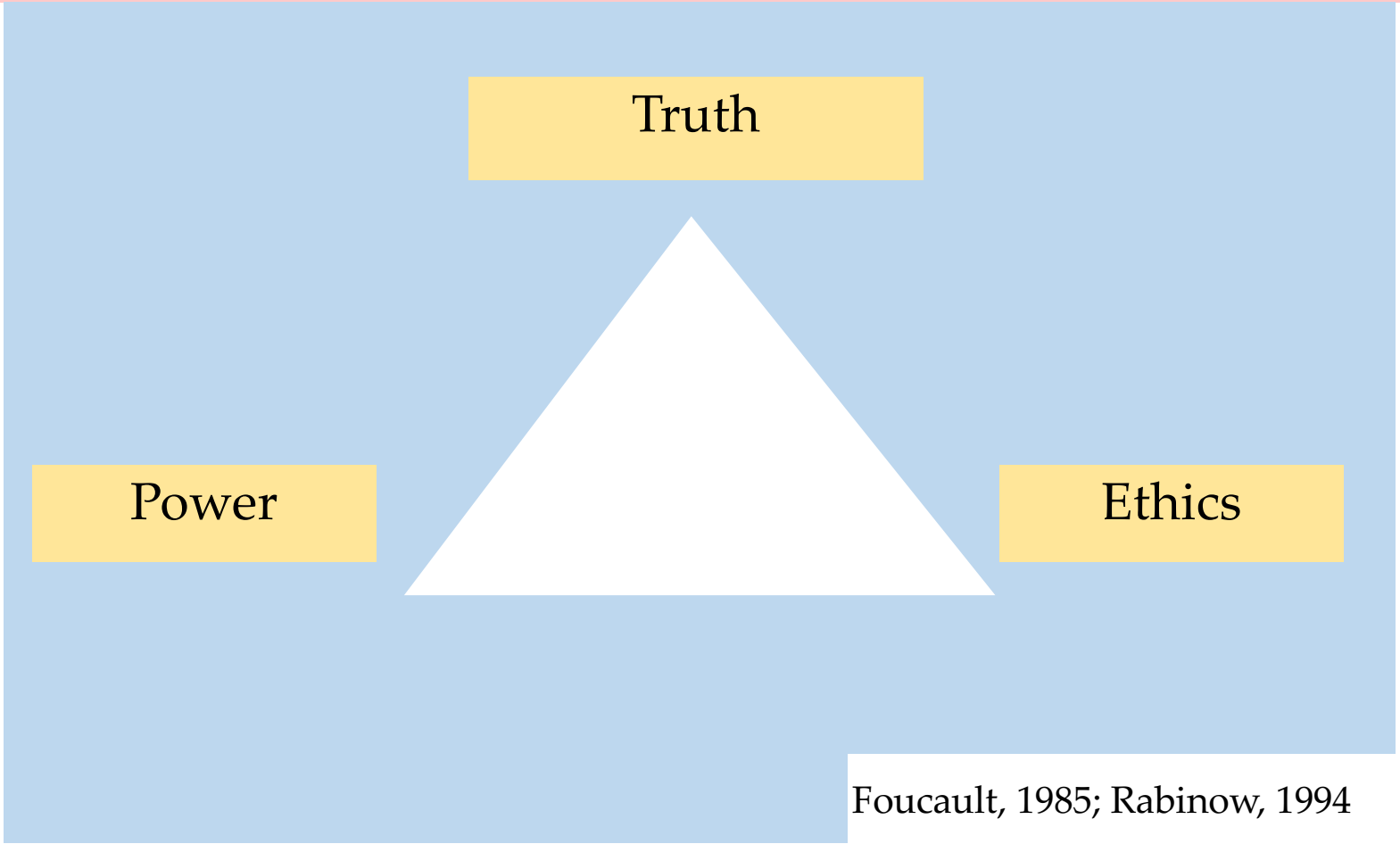
Research Ethics manifests in:

- An ethics of **entitlement** (Glesne, 2007) that legitimizes engagement in research and the right to "know" the other
- **Qualitative research methods**, which require and employ ethical considerations such as reflexive ethics (Guilleman & Gillam, 2004)
- **Communitarian ethics** through which values and moral commitments are negotiated socially (Christians, 2007; Denzin, 1997, 2003)
- Forms of legislated **research regulation** (e.g., institutional reviews of projects) that create an illusion of ethical concern (Lincoln & Tierney, 2004)

Institutionalised governance

Self-governance

‘Genealogy of self’ : Three axes



Foucault, 1985; Rabinow, 1994

Ethical considerations occur at all stages of the qualitative research process

Ethical considerations and stages of the research process (+ Handout)

- Prior to conducting the study
- At the beginning of the study
- During data collection
- In conducting data analysis
- In reporting the data
- In publishing a study

Qualitative rigor
&
Quality procedures

Qualitative research rigor?

- Absence of hypotheses
- Absence of control groups
- Lack of randomization
- Small sample size and bias in purposeful sampling
- Lack of standardized data collection protocol and instruments
- Absence of standard analytic procedures for coding and scoring data
- Lack of measurements for determining results
- Apparently arbitrary formation of the results Lack of reproducibility

  Absence of generalizability

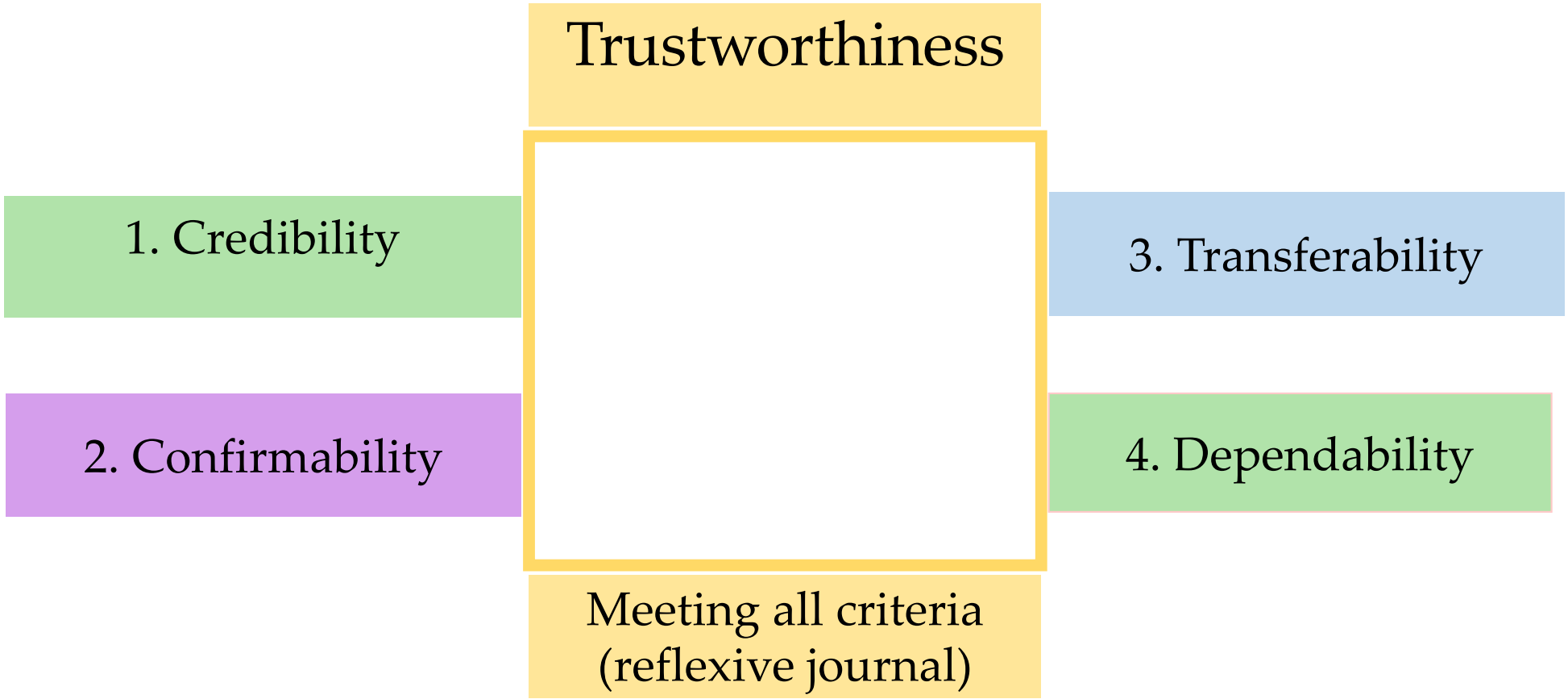
Qualitative research rigor

Qualitative		Quantitative
trustworthiness	=	objectivity, internal validity, external validity, and reliability

1980s

Guba (1981) and Guba and Lincoln (1985)

Quality criteria for Trustworthiness



Trustworthiness: Credibility criterion

1. Credibility

- Strategies that increase the *probability of high credibility*

→Prolonged engagement
→Persistent observation
→Triangulation of sources, methods, investigations

- Peer debriefing
- Negative case analysis
- Referential adequacy
- Member checks(in process and terminal)

Guba and Linkiln, 1985, , p. 328

Trustworthiness: Other criteria

2. Confirmability	3. Transferability	4. Dependability
The confirmability audit (including the audit trail)	Peer-debriefing	The dependability audit (including the audit trail)

Guba and Lincoln, 1986, p. 328

Trustworthiness is not an absolute proof

It is by persuasion one is compelled to accept the findings

Building rigor within the project

- Introducing new language terms (1980s)

- Quality checklists (1990s)

- Building rigor within (2000s)

Conscious and constant monitoring of a research project <u>during</u> the process of inquiry and not after, would provide the research with certainty, confidence, and solid results

- Appraisal of completed research (2005 to present)

Building rigor within

Appropriate design and method?
Bracketing?
Sampling?
Data collection methods?
Analytic approaches?
Member checks?
Methodological adherence?
Saturation?

‘Excellent’ quality research criteria

8 criteria for excellent qualitative research

worthy topic, rich rigor, sincerity, credibility, resonance, significant contribution, ethical and meaningful coherence

Tracy, 2010, p. 840

Quality research criteria

Authenticity (5)

1. Fairness

> A balanced view that presents all constructions and the values that undergird them
>
> Lincoln and Guba, 1986, p. 79

Step 1

Assert different value and belief systems

Step 2

Negotiate recommendations with stakeholders

Lincoln and Guba, 1986, p. 78

Fairness

Characteristics of negotiation

- Open, carried out in a full view
- Carried out by the equally skilled bargainers
- From an equal position of power
- All sides possess equally complete information
- Focused on all mattes known to be relevant
- Availability of an appeal mechanism
- Fully informed consent continually renegotiated and reconfirmed
- Use of a member-check process

Lincoln and Guba, 1986, p. 80

Lincoln,Y. and Guba, E. (1986). But is it rigorous? Trustworthiness and authenticity in naturalistic evaluation. In D. D. Williams(Ed).*Naturalirlic Inquiry. New Directions for Program Evaluation, no.30,* (pp.73-84). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Quality research criteria

Authenticity

1. Fairness

2. Ontological authentication

Aim to raise consciousness/unite divided consciousness

- Shape what had an effect on political, cultural, social impoverishment
- Increased appreciation of some set of complexities

3. Educative authentication

Aim to increase understanding of different constructs rooted in different value systems

- Each stakeholder has an opportunity to become educated about others' values , whys and hows

Lincoln and Guba, 1986

Quality research criteria

Authenticity

4. Catalytic authentication

Aim to stimulate a feedback action (validity)

- Theory into action
- Dissemination
- No guarantee that the action will be effective & brings change

5. Tactical authentication

Is it empowering or impoverishing? To whom?

- Negotiation of constructions
- Joint emic- etic elaboration

Lincoln and Guba, 1986

Research Ethic Committees: Processes and Problems

Research Ethics Committee

Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

CLEARING STUDY ABOUT STUDENT LIF

ETHICS COMMITTEE

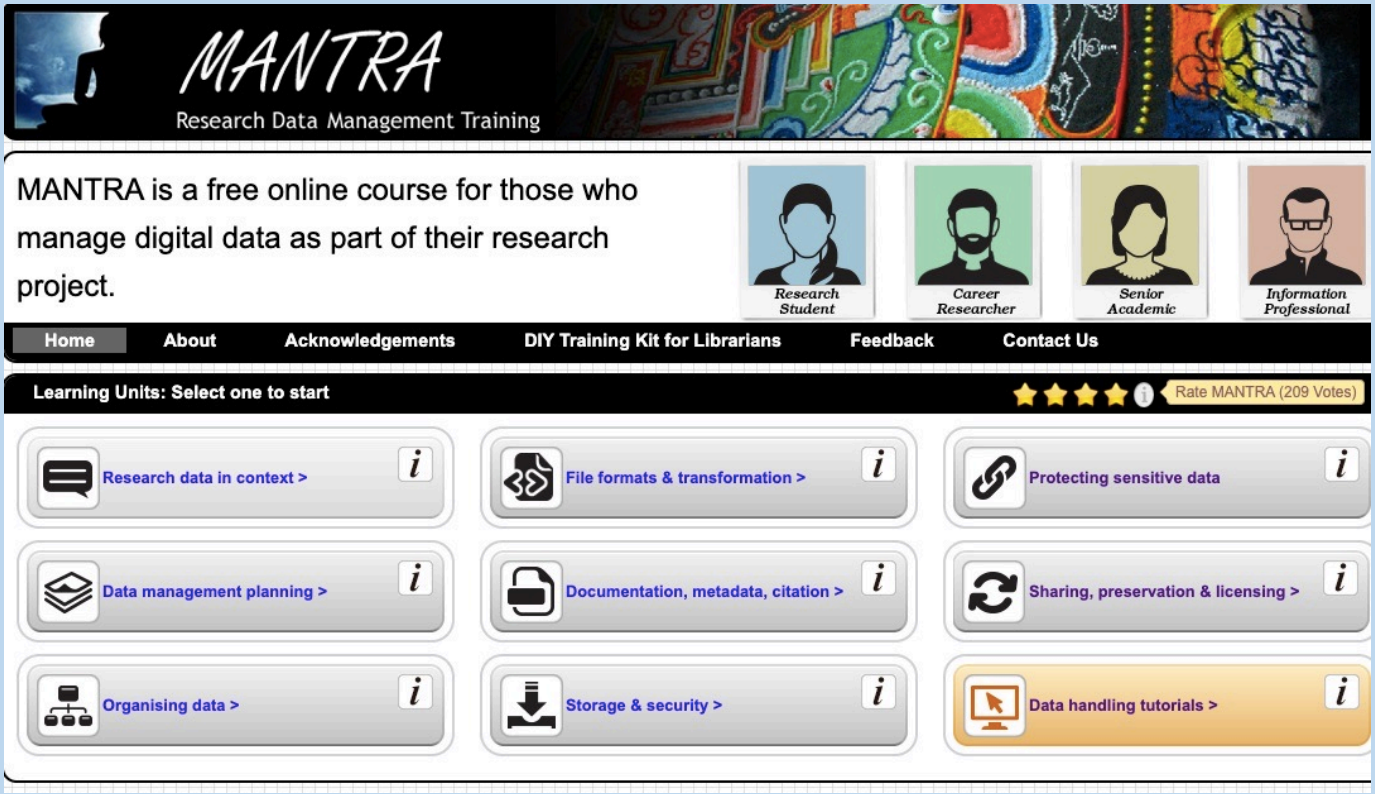
UWTSD Home - Research - Research Ethics - Ethics Committee

Research Ethics Committee

The Research Ethics Committee is responsible for determining the ethical acceptability or otherwise of proposals for University research projects, and projects for research degree programmes or postgraduate taught programmes, and for advising accordingly. It is a sub-committee of the Research Committee.

https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/ethics-committee-/

Research Ethics Training



https://mantra.edina.ac.uk/

Qualitative research is a mindset,
and here we are making it grow

Tamara Savelyeva

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