

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Qualitative Research During Lockdown

Practicalities and Ethics

Context

- ▶ Changing lockdown
- ▶ Unknowns about the Virus
- ▶ Travel, safety
- ▶ Social Distancing, what is permissible?
- ▶ Implications of masks and PPE
- ▶ Being unsure about what is possible
- ▶ Wanting to carry out meaningful research
- ▶ Ethics in a changing world

Balancing Act

- ▶ Lack of knowledge
- ▶ Anxiety about what to research
- ▶ Anxiety about how to research your interests
- ▶ Wanting to research too broad a topic
- ▶ Anxiety about writing a Master's Dissertation
- ▶ Anxiety about the support available
- ▶ Read and make good note on research methods and your topic area
- ▶ Engage fully in the taught sessions
- ▶ Engage effectively with your supervisor
- ▶ Be specific about what you want to research
- ▶ Keep an open mind about your 'approach'

Engaging in Social Science

- ▶ Much qualitative research has traditionally relied on face-to-face meetings for data collection through interviews, focus groups and field work.
- ▶ There are however, many ways students can collect qualitative data online or gather data that already exists.



An Important Place to Start

- ▶ Research techniques can be broadly divided into:
 - ▶ Data generation techniques (where the researcher generates data) and
 - ▶ Replicating traditional forms of data gathering (Interviews, focus groups)
 - ▶ Video calling - Teams, Zoom
 - ▶ Text based instant messaging
 - ▶ Qualitative surveys
 - ▶ Journal keeping
 - ▶ Data sampling techniques (where the researcher collects texts that are already in existence eg Documentary Analysis).

An Important Place to Start

- ▶ Data Sampling (where the researcher collects texts or images that are already in existence).
- ▶ Broadcast media
- ▶ Print media
- ▶ Textbooks
- ▶ Speeches
- ▶ Online debates
- ▶ Policy documents
- ▶ Political speeches
- ▶ Blogs

Health and Well-being

- ▶ Consider your own health and well-being
- ▶ Consider the health and well-being of the people you may want to gather data from
- ▶ Consider UWTSD and any organisation you intend to carry out research with policies and regulations
- ▶ Consider the timeline involved in your study, particularly, prepare your ethical approval form thoroughly and promptly
- ▶ Be pragmatic about the choices you make regarding the structure and conduct of your study
- ▶ Be prepared to conduct the research and analyse your findings within the context of lockdown

Books Advocating Creative and Innovative Approaches

- ▶ Braun, V., Clarke, V., & Gray, D. (2017). *Collecting Qualitative Data: A Practical guide to Textual, Media and Virtual Techniques*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ▶ Kara, H. (2015) *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical Guide*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- ▶ Leavy, P. (2015) *Method Meets Art: Arts-Based Research Practice*. New York: The Guildford Press.
- ▶ Martin, B. and Hanington, B. (2012) *Universal Methods of Design*. Beverly: Rockport Publishers.
- ▶ Pink, S. (2015) *Doing Sensory Ethnography*. 2nd edition. London: Sage.
- ▶ Woodward, S. (2019) *Material Methods: Researching and Thinking with Things*. London: Sage.