



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

Research Methods Workshop

Week 2 : Research & You
(Part 1 of 3)

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

MBA / Postgraduate Level Research **Intention**

Could lead to:

- 1) solve specific problem – **if so which / what problem?**
- 2) exploit an opportunity – **if so what opportunity & where??**
- 3) respond to a pressure / demand - **if so whose pressure & demand?**
- 4) help gain Competitive advantage – **if so how and why? i**

Assessing research: some key questions

- Who are the researchers?
- Who is it for?
- What is the purpose?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Who is affected by the research?

All of these important lines of inquiry have an ethical perspective

“Reading” research

- How do you approach reading research?
- Distance?
- Reading with?
- Reading over?
- Reading against?
- Superiority and inferiority
- Hermeneutic approach to “reading”
- Cultural, geographic and gender differencing?

Research Questions and Approaches

- What is the main research question?
- Are sub-questions clearly unpacked and logically related?
- Is the analysis geared to answering the research question(s)?
- Data and personal security (primary/secondary)
- Confidentiality?
- Informed consent?
- Vulnerable adults/children?
- "Hidden histories" and "surfacing undiscussables"
- Examples of codes of conduct e.g. <http://www.bera.ac.uk/>
- See the Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research

Methodology

- What are the overall perspectives and methodology adopted?
- Do the researchers specify *what there is* (ontology) and *how we come to know it* (epistemology)?
- Are ethical concerns discussed? Participation? Voice? Action research (look-think-act) cycles and using pilot studies
- What specific methods are chosen? (qualitative/quantitative – but there are many others)

Again, where are ethical perspectives given voice?

Results

- What are the results?
- Do the results answer the research question(s)?
- Is the scope and relevance of the results clearly defined?
- Sampling, validation and ethical application of research outcomes

Reflections and Conclusions

- Does the research include some reflection on processes, limitations etc.?
- Do the conclusions identify the significance of the research for the wider field?
- Are further research related questions identified?
- Has the research really contributed to useful knowledge?
- Re-turning to sense-of-self?