

## Seminar 8 – Writing Up Research

### Purpose of the Week

This week focuses on writing up research. This is the art of taking field work and collected data from different sources and presenting it in a manner which makes it accessible to others and relevant to the academy.

We will spend time in this class looking at the structure of a written-up piece of research. This will include points such as: the credibility of the researcher, reflexive considerations, the 'global' thinking around the research question, the literature review, the credibility of the data, the target group and the methodology. We will also discuss the idea of looking for themes within your qualitative data and then the importance of linking that back to your literature review. Finally, we will discuss the importance of a well-balanced conclusion.

### Tasks for this week

- Watch the lectures by Dr Bernadette Brady, Dr Dawn Collins and Dr Jack Hunter on Writing Up Research.
- Do the required reading.

### Required Reading:

The reading this week first looks at the theory of how to write up qualitative research while the practical approach to writing up can be seen in the outlines – table of contents – of Brady's, Champion's and Bird's PhD theses as well as in their individual chapters.

### Theory

Hennink, M. M., Hutter, I. & Bailey, A., *Qualitative Research Methods* (Los Angeles; London, SAGE, 2011/2020). Chapters 12 and 13.

Bell, J. and S. Waters, *Doing Your Research Project* (New York: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill, 2017), 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Chapter 15 ('Writing the Report').

Wolcott, H.E. Writing up Qualitative Research. Available on Moodle.

Hart, C. 'Doing a Literature Review'. Available on Moodle.

### Practice

Brady, B. (2012). *Theories of Fate Among Present-Day Astrologers* PhD, University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Chapter 9 – this is where Dr Brady writes up the qualitative data collected in her questionnaires.

Bird, A. (2006). *Astrology in Education: an Ethnography*. DPhil, University of Sussex. Ch.6.

Brady, Bernadette. & Alison Bird, 'A Niche Degree: a case study of an MA (in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology)'. *DISKUS, Teaching and Learning*, 2013, 55-69.

→ This is a write-up by Brady and Bird of their qualitative research project focused on this MA – its history, students and tutors. When reading this paper take careful

note of the structure, its introduction with its stated aim and methodology, how the arguments are built and how the qualitative data is linked back to the earlier literature review. Finally take note of the conclusion.

Gunzburg, D., 'How Do Astrologers Read Charts'. In: Campion, N. & Greene, L. (eds.) *Astrologies, Plurality and Diversity* (University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, UK: Sophia Centre Press, 2011).

→ Gunzburg's paper attempts to explore the astrologer's world from within and looks at the phenomenology of reading a horoscope. Look at how the author has turned their interview and questionnaire data into themes and structured the writing up.