

Methods Clinic #1, January 22, 2021

General Resources on Interpretive Methodologies & Methods and the community of interpretive researchers

Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow

Note: We have compiled these resources in response to some of the questions we were asked. For example, several people wanted to know what “interpretive methods” included, or what they included other than, say, ethnography.

The list and table shared at the start of the session

List of interpretive methods for analyzing data

Yanow and Schwartz-Shea, 2014, *Interpretation and method*, 2nd ed., ME Sharpe: p. xxiii.

Additionally, for general background, see book intro. and intros. to the 4 parts. On ‘evaluative standards’ (a/k/a assessment criteria) for interpretive research, chapter 7.

On ‘rigor’ from an interpretive perspective, chapter 6.

Table 6.1, comparing “positivist” and “interpretive” approaches

Schwartz-Shea and Yanow, 2012, *Interpretive research design*, Routledge

Other sources

Positioning interpretive work with respect to “qualitative” research in political science:

Yanow, 2003, Interpretive empirical political science: What makes this not a subfield of qualitative methods. *QMMR* <https://zenodo.org/record/998761>

2 of many other works that explore various angles on interpretive methodologies and methods:

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, 2016, *The conduct of inquiry in IR*, 2nd ed., Routledge

Pushkala Prasad, 2018, *Crafting qualitative research: Beyond positivist traditions*, 2nd ed., Routledge

Interpretive research communities

- Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Conference Group @ APSA (American Political Science Association)

<https://connect.apsanet.org/interpretationandmethod/>

[Note: You need not be a member of APSA to access this page.]

These links in particular might be useful:

- Research and resources link, especially
 - QMMR Symposium: Teaching Interpretive Methods
 - Interpretive Political Science – Readings by Subfield, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow (rev. 2015); w/ prize winners noted
- National Science Foundation Workshop link, especially
 - Cecelia Lynch, Patrick Jackson, Ido Oren on IR
 - Fred Schaffer on ordinary language interviewing
 - Yanow and Schwartz-Shea on public policy and public administration

The IMM group has a new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/interpretivemm>

- Interpretation & Methods listserv
Irregularly active list where members post questions, comments, information about conferences, journal issues, etc.; link to information and subscription page:
<http://lists.digital-discourse.org/listinfo.cgi/interpretationandmethods-digital-discourse.org>
- Interpretation, Method and Critique (IMC) Network and Research Cluster, Australia National University
<https://politicsir.cass.anu.edu.au/interpretation-method-and-critique-imc-network-and-research-cluster>
- New Books in Interpretive Political and Social Science
Podcast series on the New Books Network hosted by Nick Cheesman
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/category/interpretive-political-and-social-science/>
- Interpretive Policy Analysis links
<https://ipa.science/> will get you to the conference, the journal, *Critical Policy Studies*, and other things.

For the Critical Policy Studies Conference Group @ APSA:

<https://connect.apsanet.org/critical-policy-studies/>

- Public Administration Theory Network
<https://paththeory.net/> will get you to its conference and journal, *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, among other things. Much of their work is informed by critical theory, but they also draw on other sources, and empirical research draws on a range of interpretive methods.

Qualitative Transparency Deliberations (QTD)

A few years ago, APSA adopted a Data Access & Research Transparency (DA-RT) policy promoted by the Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research section (QMMR). There was significant pushback from interpretive and some qualitative researchers,

including in some of the documents prepared for an initiative QMMR sponsored to promote discussion about the applicability of DA-RT to interpretive and some forms of qualitative research. The initiative was called Qualitative Transparency Deliberations (QTD). It had several topical committees, and the reports of some of them are particularly relevant to topics we engaged at the 1st Methods Clinic or likely will engage in future clinic discussions.

These reports were recently published in *Perspectives on Politics* (First View, 2020): “Qualitative Transparency Deliberations (QTD): Insights and Implications.”

A review essay and summaries of each report are here: <https://bit.ly/3otcQH4>

The full set of working group reports is available here: <https://bit.ly/3nr7c76>

See, especially:

I.1 Epistemological and Ontological Priors

Subgroup B: Explicating the Perils of Transparency

Timothy W. Luke, Antonio Y. Vázquez-Arroyo, Mary Hawkesworth

<https://static.cambridge.org/content/id/urn:cambridge.org:id:article:S1537592720001164/resource/name/S1537592720001164sup002.pdf>

II.2 Evidence from Researcher Interactions with Human Participants

Anastasia Shesterinina, Mark A. Pollack, Leonardo R. Arriola

III.2 Interpretive Methods

Lisa Björkman, Lisa Wedeen, Juliet A. Williams, Mary Hawkesworth

III.3 Ethnography and Participant Observation

Jillian Schwedler, Erica S. Simmons, Nicholas Rush Smith