

Event Review

Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP) Conference 2022, taking place on 13–15 July at De Montfort University, Leicester

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Peter

This was my first time attending the Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP) Conference and I was uncertain what to expect. The conference programme was packed full of papers and discussions that sounded fascinating on a wide variety of topics. I was attending with Lisa Oakley (University of Chester) to present our paper entitled 'Painting holistic pictures through Single Pen Portrait Analysis (SPPA)'. Although we were not presenting until the Friday, so we had a couple of days to enjoy the other presentations. Attending a workshop facilitated by Michael Larkin exploring interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) was one of the conference highlights for me; however, I was also inspired by some of the amazing qualitative work being completed by other researchers. It was also very validating to be with so many other researchers who truly believe in the value of qualitative research, which is not always the case at other research conferences.

Lisa

This was the third time I had attended QMIP, and it is always a conference I look forward to. It provides a unique opportunity for qualitative researchers to come together and share innovation, reflections and new approaches. This year was no exception, I came away enthused about the possibilities for new research studies and with additional learning about IPA and how qualitative research methods are being embedded in psychology teaching, which is a passion of mine. I had the privilege to present two papers. One with my colleague Dr Mandy Urquhart 'When does inclusion become exclusionary? Critical reflections on qualitative interviews evaluating a programme to support mothers who may be subject to a child protection plan' and our paper on SPPA. Both were opportunities to share approaches and critical reflections and to obtain really helpful feedback to enhance our thinking and research studies. In a world of psychology often dominated by quantitative research, QMIP is essential for qualitative researchers to find a place in which they can present, discuss and debate to continue to develop rigorous research for the future.



Our joint experience

Our paper outlined our approach to SPPA which we developed to overcome the issue of data fragmentation when completing qualitative research. The paper was received well, and we had some interesting questions and reflections from audience members and these discussions continued across the remainder of the conference. This input motivated us to continue working on our ideas the week after the conference and led us to finalise and submit our methods paper to a journal for review. We felt that this conference was very supportive of new and early career researchers, and it was attended by qualitative researchers with a wide range of experience which led to an exciting mix of conversations throughout the conference.

There was a real buzz of energy as the conference ended, and many attendees (including us) were thinking about attending the next one in 2024!

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