PhD Program in Psychology

Introducing qualitative approaches to research: Inductive Thematic Analysis in Practice

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Dates and Place TBD

Abstract

This seminar introduces inductive thematic analysis, a qualitative research method that emphasizes an exploratory approach to identifying patterns in data without relying on preconceived theories. Through inductive thematic analysis, researchers allow themes to emerge naturally from the data rather than imposing them, promoting an open-ended and flexible interpretation process. The session will begin by exploring the distinctions between inductive and deductive approaches, clarifying how each impacts data interpretation and thematic development. Participants will engage in thematic coding practice, learning to identify patterns and recurring themes within data sources. By focusing on inductive analysis, we aim to cultivate a research approach grounded in participants' authentic experiences, minimizing the imposition of external frameworks while acknowledging researchers' biases and expertise on the topic. Throughout the workshop, attendees will critically reflect on their own assumptions and biases to better understand how these may shape the research process. By examining real-world applications, we hope participants will gain practical tools to strengthen their qualitative research.

Suggested readings:

Clarke, V., & Braun, V. (2017). Thematic analysis. *The journal of positive psychology*, *12*(3), 297-298.

Naeem, M., Ozuem, W., Howell, K., & Ranfagni, S. (2023). A step-by-step process of thematic analysis to develop a conceptual model in qualitative research. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, *22*, 16094069231205789.