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info@boomamsterdam.nl
www.boomuitgeversamsterdam.nl

SUMMARIES

Naturalism and qualitative research

Roy Gigengack

In his discussion of *Doing Qualitative Research: The Craft of Naturalistic Inquiry* (Beuving & De Vries, 2015, Amsterdam: AUP), Gigengack praises its accessibility and the valuable chapters on interviewing, documents, portrayals, and suchlike, especially for method courses. But he dislikes the authors' conception of naturalism and the definition of qualitative research as a craft. In their reaction, Beuving and De Vries stress that, in their conception, naturalism is to be seen as a form of realism, but Gigengack responds with an analysis of the book's cover picture to show the limitations of this view. In a comment on these discussions, Smaling describes Beuving & De Vries' position as one of four conceptions of naturalism in qualitative research.

Bull sessions to protect intimate boundaries

Sven da Silva

During research for my MA thesis in Brazil I theorized slum politics by following a community leader. He would often bully me. After an uncomfortable start to my fieldwork, I became interested in bull sessions, a term that describes well the development of my relationship with the community leader. Bull sessions encourage participants to speak about topics they would normally not talk about, yet participants are primarily concerned with impressing others rather than with the truth. These bull sessions guarded intimate borders. They masked a shared condition, namely

that of the painful memories of being from the favela. I use this experience to make the methodological argument that – to create openness and stimulate and adventurous dialogue with informants – ethnographers should engage in bull sessions, but at the same time use their toolbox to separate performance from content. They should put quotes in context in a transparent way so that readers can make their own judgment.

Research from a client perspective and the direct member check

Lineke Verkooijen

This article describes a method for narrative research from a client perspective. In this type of research the story and the meaning of the story according to the client are the objects of research. The method is presented as a 'direct member check'. During open interviews the verbal reactions of the interviewee or narrator are being typed out on a laptop as literally as possible and projected by means of a projector. The interviewee is invited to read it and respond to the text. The method is used to effectively understand the knowledge, experience and meaning of clients' stories. Whether it is useful in other situations, is a question for further research.

Mystery Shopping as a research methodology in the domain of applied research

Jacqueline Smith & Karlijn Uijtewaal

The article introduces the qualitative research method of Mystery Shopping in the domain of applied research. To that end, its principles and applications

are addressed. Next, the methodological steps to be taken are outlined and procedures to be followed are presented. Finally, ethical issues regarding the use of Mystery Shopping are discussed.