

Workshop 5

What's happening in qualitative research? – New approaches, new methods, innovations and a turn to interpretation.

Over the last ten years or so qualitative research in psychology has been transformed – from a 'fringe' endeavour within a largely hostile environment, to one that is now much more respected, valued and recognized as having unique capabilities. This has been especially so in health psychology. Major innovations have been made in approaches to methods, there have been significant developments in established methodologies (such as thematic analysis, conversational analysis and IPA) and real advances in gaining insight and the skills needed to conduct sophisticated interpretation (including pluralist analysis and meta-analysis).

In this workshop we will offer an overview of these changes and then provide opportunities to explore two of the most striking developments (metasynthesis and 'bricolage') in more detail. The focus of these explorations will be to reflect on the type of knowledge that can be created through using them, to what uses this knowledge may be put, and what the ethical implications may be. Within this context, we will be stimulating a discussion on the post-qualitative critique of 'conventional' qualitative research and a reflection on the future tasks for qualitative psychology.

Carla Willig is Professor of Psychology at City, University of London. She has a long-standing interest in the use of qualitative research methods in psychology. Ever since she chose to use a qualitative research method for her doctoral research in the late 1980s when such approaches were still very much at the fringes within the discipline, she has engaged with questions about the nature, status and legitimacy of knowledge claims. She has used a variety of qualitative research methods in her own research, including grounded theory methodology (for her doctoral research in the 1980s), discourse analysis (throughout the 1990s) and more recently phenomenological research methods (2000 onwards). She is currently conducting qualitative metasynthesis research into the experience of living with terminal cancer. Carla's most recent publications include *Introducing Qualitative Research in Psychology* (2013, 3rd edition, McGraw Hill/Open University Press) and *Qualitative Interpretation and Analysis in Psychology* (2012, McGraw Hill).

Wendy Stainton Rogers is Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Health & Social Welfare at the Open University. Following several episodes of catastrophic surgery starting in 2011, she is now somewhat disabled but increasingly capable of actively engaging in academic work once again. Wendy was one of the 'founding mothers' of critical health psychology, publishing *Explaining Health & Illness* (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1991). She was thereafter a founding member of ISCHP. She too used a qualitative approach to her PhD (Q Methodology) which entails many different ways of collecting data. Supporting Carla, she has recently been co-editing the 2nd edition of the *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research in Psychology* (Willig & Stainton Rogers, Sage, 2017).