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Qualitative and mixed research methods have been reaching important achievements throughout the academic world. However, there are still open challenges for multidisciplinary coherence, methodological focus, rigor and systematization towards the holistic integration and quality of research. The World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR2018) aims at being an important international discussion forum that sheds light on these and many other challenges in the area. The 3rd WCQR took place from 17th to 19th October 2018, at Lisbon School of Nursing, Portugal. For WCQR2018, the submission of scientific papers was encouraged and focused on i) Qualitative Research in Health (emphasis on the processes of research in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Geriatrics, Gerontology, Psychology, etc.); ii) Qualitative Research in Education (emphasis on the processes of research in various areas of Higher Education, Basic Education, Assessment, Curriculum, Teaching, Teaching of Sciences, Languages, History, Technology, etc.); iii) Qualitative Research in Social Science (emphasis on the processes of research in the fields of Communication, Linguistics, Sociology, Anthropology, Business Administration, Marketing, Management and Economics, Political Science, etc.); iv) Qualitative Research in Engineering and Technology (emphasis on the research processes in the areas of Computer Science, Information Systems, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering and Engineering Education).

The 3rd WCQR topics were organized under two major dimensions:

A) Fundamentals

1. Rationale and Paradigms of Qualitative Research (theoretical studies, critical reflection about epistemological, ontological and axiological dimensions).
2. Systematization of approaches with Qualitative Studies (literature review, integrating results, aggregation studies, meta-analysis, meta-analysis of qualitative meta-synthesis, meta-ethnography).
3. Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research (emphasis on research processes that build on mixed methodologies but prioritizing qualitative approaches).
B) Operationalization

1. Data Analysis Types (content analysis, discourse analysis, thematic analysis, narrative analysis, etc.).

2. Innovative processes of Qualitative Data Analysis (design analysis, articulation and triangulation of different sources of data – images, audio, video).

3. Qualitative Research in Web Context (e-Research, virtual ethnography, interaction analysis, internet latent corpus, etc.).

4. Qualitative Analysis with the Support of Specific Software (usability studies, user experience, the impact of software on the quality of research and analysis).

Besides regular paper presentations, WCQR2018 held two plenary sessions:

• "Transformative approaches: synergies, distinctions, strengths and current challenges”, presented by Rosalind Edwards, from the University of Southampton (United Kingdom);

• "Using qualitative research methods to develop and evaluate complex interventions”, presented by Adriana Henriques, Lisbon School of Nursing (Portugal);

And one discussion panel:

• "Innovations in Qualitative Methods and Topics” (National Centre for Research Methods):
  o “An introduction to NCRM’s qualitative research”
    Professor Rosalind Edwards (University of Southampton)
  o “Researching families and sustainability”
    Professor Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh)
  o “A skills audit for participants: interactive activity”
  o “Big data, qualitative style: a breadth- and- depth method for working with large amounts of secondary qualitative data”
    Professor Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh) and Professor Rosalind Edwards (University of Southampton)

Covering the large scope of Qualitative Research themes and issues, the World Conference on Qualitative Research aims to be a platform for the exchange of ideas, innovative solutions, perspectives and research results regarding the field, both in academic and corporate contexts. To that end, we dedicated the first day to the use and development of Digital Tools to support research. Digital Tools Day held two plenary sessions:

• "Mindsets for harnessing digital tools in qualitative and mixed-methods analysis: the Five-Level QDA® method”, by Christina Silver, from the University of Surrey (United Kingdom);

• "Text Mining to Improve Qualitative Data Analysis of Large Document Collections”, presented by Luís Paulo Reis, from the University of Porto (Portugal).

And four demo sessions:

• "DiscoverText: Power Tools for Human & Machine Learning”, by Stuart Shulman (United States of America);

• “Introduction to ATLAS.ti 8 Windows: Tools for Digging into your Qualitative Data”, by Neringa Kalpokaite and Ivana Radivojevic (Germany);

• “How happy are your clients? webQDA as a tool for assessing customer satisfaction”, by Jaime Ribeiro (Portugal);

• “User Experience Evaluation”, by Sónia Sousa (Estonia).
Of the papers accepted in the 3rd World Conference on Qualitative Research, 21 are published in these proceedings. Each paper was subjected to a process of double-blind reviewing, performed by a scientific committee composed by highly qualified elements in the scientific areas of the Conference.

The entire process of research, revision and edition is the work of several collaborators and specialists. Therefore, a very well deserved and sincere word of thanks to all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the organization of the 3rd World Conference on Qualitative Research (attendants, authors, committees, partner institutions, sponsors, journals, etc.). A special thanks to the Lisbon School of Nursing, for providing the venue and the human resources that allowed this 3rd WCQR to happen. We believe that all these efforts are a form of promoting the expansion, integration and quality of qualitative research.

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