



11th INTERNATIONAL QUALITATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (IQRC)

2023

Positioning Critical Lenses in Qualitative Research

Keynote Speakers

Prof Dr John W. Creswell

Professor
University of Michigan



Dr Martin Christensen

Director, Interdisciplinary
Centre for Qualitative Research
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



Dr Chong Su Li

President, QRAM
Senior Lecturer,
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS



DoubleTree by Hilton,
Putrajaya Lakeside,
Malaysia



Preconference workshop

23 Nov 2023

Fees: RM450-RM600/pax

Conference

24-25 Nov 2023

Fees: RM750-RM1000/pax



Qualitative Research Association of Malaysia

Interdisciplinary Centre for
Qualitative Research
跨學科質性研究合作中心



SPRINGER NATURE



StatWoykd
Computational Analytics

Theme

Positioning Critical Lenses in Qualitative Research

Research methodologies of qualitative inquiry have continued to evolve because of its self-perpetuating critical evaluation to arrive at authentic and trustworthy representations of participants' voices. This is necessary for qualitative research methodology to stay relevant as a research paradigm especially as contexts surrounding its social actors are in constant flux. Qualitative researchers need to take with them the principles underpinning axiology and fully acknowledge the paradigms of knowledge construction in their findings. Only then, can they fulfil their responsibility of connecting participants' voices to relevant stakeholders in society. Therefore, to further understand our complex society, qualitative researchers require new perspectives to constantly challenge norms and familiar thinking. In the 11th International Qualitative Research Conference (2023), a re-emphasis on the importance of critical examination of qualitative methodologies will be placed front and centre. Questions about how qualitative researchers should position critical lenses in everchanging human contexts will be raised and discussed. With this critical evaluation, we hope to position qualitative research in its rightful place in scientific discourse so as to contribute to a just and balanced society.

QRAM Committee 2022 - 2024



President

Dr Chong Su Li

Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

I am delighted to welcome delegates to QRAM's 11th International Qualitative Research Conference, 2023. At our 11th conference in 20 years, we celebrate multiple milestones. First, we pay tribute to past QRAM members for keeping the association and its cause alive so that we can all be here, 20 years after QRAM's founding, to learn and grow with the qualitative research community. As one community, we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Second, we finally come back together for a face-to-face conference after a 4-year hiatus. We welcome the opportunity to return to what we are most comfortable with - human connection - and to be able to talk, listen, engage and experience new learnings about qualitative research. The sharing and exchanges of ideas will fuel our imaginations for coming up with innovative and creative ways to better understand human motivation and behaviour especially in the ways they are socially constructed. Third, we will get to connect with delegates from a range of countries from both the eastern and western parts of the globe. The truly international presence will, I am sure, enrich our conference experience and widen our perspectives. It is our earnest wish that IQRC 2023 delegates have an enlightening, enjoyable and engaging conference!



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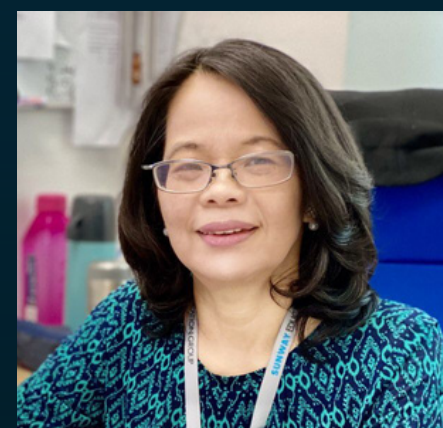
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Asia Pacific University



Secretariat
Dr Sa'adah Masrukin

Preconference workshops

programme

23rd November 2023

Time	Agenda
8.30am – 9.00am	Registration (at respective venues)
9.00am – 10.45am	Preconference Workshop
10.45am – 11.15am	Refreshments (Venue: Chini 3)
11.15am – 1.00pm	Preconference Workshop
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Lunch (Venue: Makan Kitchen)
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Preconference Workshop
3.30pm – 4.00pm	Refreshments (Venue: Chini 3)
4.00pm – 5.00pm	Preconference Workshop

Preconference Workshop 1 Venue: Chini 1 & 2	Preconference Workshop 2 Venue: Chini 4 & 5	Preconference Workshop 3 Venue: Perdana 3	Preconference Workshop 4 Venue: Chini 3
Prof Dr John W Creswell; Dr Mariko H Creswell	Dr Martin Christensen	Assoc Prof Dr Jeffrey Yee; Dr Chong Su Li	Prof Dr Rohaida Mohd Saat; Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon

Preconference workshop 1

Steps in Planning and Conducting a Qualitative Study

Venue: Chini 1 & 2



Prof Dr John W. Creswell
University of Michigan

This workshop will focus on the major decisions that go into planning and conducting a qualitative study. These decisions relate to: deciding that qualitative research is a good fit for the research problem under study, designing purpose statements and research questions, stating the researcher's worldview and theory, including data collection issues of sampling, sample size, and sampling strategy, using interview and observation protocols, analyzing qualitative data inductively, and reporting on validity and reflexivity. The focus of the workshop will be placed on the practical use of qualitative research, and the steps and visual tools available for completing the steps. Participants are encouraged to bring their qualitative projects and present examples of the steps they use. A short question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Co-presenter
Dr Mariko H. Creswell

Preconference workshop 2

Content and Thematic Analysis: Are we confused as to what it is we're doing

Venue: Chini 4 & 5



Dr Martin Christensen
The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University

In this workshop, participants will be able to discern the different approaches to both content and thematic analysis especially around coding and theme/category development. There will be opportunities to discuss general questions around both content and thematic analysis along with practical work in small groups based on material provided.

Preconference workshop 3

Doing Qualitative Data Analysis using Narrative and Phenomenographic Approaches

Venue: Perdana 3



Assoc Prof Dr Jeffrey Yee
Quest International
University

In this workshop, participants will be guided through hands-on experience in learning how qualitative data can be treated and analysed. Two important analytical pathways will be shared. First, the basic principles of coding-categorising-conceptualizing (CCC) data will be introduced. Participants will learn how raw data can be transformed vis-à-vis this basic CCC principle. Hands-on coding exercises will be given for participants to try their hand at coding. Second, narrative and phenomenographic analytical approaches will be taught to provide a deeper analytical layer to qualitative data analysis. Participants will get a chance to apply and test out either approach in their hands-on analytical exercise where real qualitative data sets will be used.



Dr Chong Su Li
Universiti Teknologi
PETRONAS

Preconference workshop 4

Critical design: Demystifying myths in Qualitative Research

Venue: Chini 3



Prof Dr Rohaida Mohd Saat
Universiti Malaya



Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon
SEGI University

Qualitative research methodologies are often perceived as lacking rigor and scientific validity, the rigor of qualitative research is largely determined right from the designing stage. This workshop deliberates on issues to be considered during research design especially pertaining to demystify the myth of qualitative research. One common myth is the belief that numbers and frequencies have no place in qualitative research. Another myth is relating to the utilization of interviews as a data collection method, it is a common misconception or a myth that all research conducted in this manner is of a qualitative nature. Another myth worth deliberating on is the purpose of qualitative research which many deemed as non-scientific. Qualitative Research need to be positioned through critical lenses. To facilitate a better understanding of designing qualitative research from the above perspectives, this workshop will combine mini-lectures, small group activities, and individual activities. Participants will receive reading materials prior to the workshop, which they will analyze and discuss in small groups, before presenting their findings to the larger group.

Conference programme

24th November 2023 - Day 1

Time	Agenda			
8.00am – 9.00am	Registration Entrance - Kenyir Grand Ballroom			
9.00am – 9.15am	Welcoming address: Dr Chong Su Li, QRAM President Kenyir Grand Ballroom			
9.15am – 10.15am	Keynote 1: Professor Dr John W Creswell Kenyir Grand Ballroom			
10.15am – 11.15am	Parallel sessions - Session A			
	A1. Chair: Prof Dr Mohd Shahrim Abd Karim Theme: Phenomenology	A2. Chair: Dr Adura Ahmad Theme: Systematic Review/ Meta analysis	A3. Chair: Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon Theme: Qualitative design in healthcare	A4. Chair: Dr Nur Sofurah Mohd Faiz Theme: Qualitative design in gender studies
	Kenyir Grand Ballroom	Chini 1	Chini 2	Chini 4
	Tan Woei Ling Understanding the Lived and Coping Among End-Stage Kidney Failure Patients on Haemodialysis Treatment: Are we Ready?	Maryati Mohd Yusof A Critical Evaluation of Systematic Review Design for Qualitative Research	Sivakumari Supramaniam Green Tourism Practices in the Hospitality Industry: A Study of Mid to Luxury Hotels	Chua Shu Cean An Inquiry into the Lives of Queer Chinese Malaysians: The Quest for Queer Space and Identity Reconciliation
	Steffi Tan Resilience in University Teachers during COVID-19 Pandemic: An Interpretative Phenomenological Perspectives	Ahmed Mohamed Authentic Leadership in Education: A Meta Synthesis	Rachel Lua Transformative Learning Through Leisure International Tourism in the Post-pandemic Context	Tang Qing Qing Reimagining Femininity; Exploring the 'Barbie Effect' on Perspectives of Women in Contemporary China
	Nek Mah Basri Community Adoption of a Low-carbon Lifestyle Programme in Kuala Lumpur	Mila Nu Nu Healthcare Perspective on Environmental Pollution Hazards and Health: Qualitative Evidence Synthesis	KittyYeun Han MO Quality Transition Strategies Facilitating the Transition From Teenage to Adulthood for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Family Carers	-
11.15am - 11.45am	Refreshments/ Sponsors/ Networking Ballroom Foyer		Statworks Chini 4	

Conference programme

24th November 2023 - Day 1

Time	Agenda			
11.45am – 12.45pm	Parallel sessions - Session B			
	B1. Chair: Prof Dr Geetha Subramaniam Theme: Phenomenology	B2. Chair: Assoc. Prof Dr Jeffrey Yee Theme: Data collection	B3. Chair: Prof Dr Khatijah Lim Abdullah Theme: Qualitative design in healthcare	B4. Chair: Dr Nur Sofurah Mohd Faiz Theme: Qualitative design in education
	Kenyir Grand Ballroom	Chini 1	Chini 2	Chini 4
	Anindita Paul Mixed Method Research in the Critical Realist Paradigm: Applying Case Study and Descriptive Statistics to Inquire into Teleworkers' ICT Use in the Home Setting	Wong Kai Yan Focus Group Discussion on Psycho-physical Training, Physical Training and Psychological Training among Malaysian University Students' Attitudes	Ke Ma An Integrated Framework for Risk Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccinations: A Qualitative Study in Hong Kong	Zhao Wei The Experience of Acculturative Stress among Chinese International Students Studying in Malaysian Universities
	Li Ruihua An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Help Seeking Behaviour among First Generation College Students: Understanding Challenges and Pathways to Success	Nurul Atira Khairul Anhar Using Document Phenomenology to Investigate Academic Failure among First-year Malaysian Medical Students	Praveen Kumar Barriers to Contraceptive Methods Uptake among Married Women in Rural India: A Qualitative Study	Sangeeth Ramalingam Exploring ESL tertiary learners' Learner-to-Content Interaction in a Blended Environment Through Qualitative Lens
	Yaqin Zhou No Medication Means No HIV Diagnosis: Exploring Anti-retroviral Therapy Initiation Decision-making among HIV/AIDS Patients in Huanan, China	Cordelia Mason Exploring Biases in Narrative Construction through Story-telling	Logeswary A/P Krisnan Use of AI Tools for Diabetes Care : Exploring Patient Attitude and Perspective	Sheilla Omar Lim Balancing Work and Family Life for Parents with Special Needs Children

Conference programme

24th November 2023 - Day 1 (cont'd)

Time	Agenda			
12.45pm – 2.30pm	Lunch/ Networking Makan Kitchen			
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Keynote 2: Dr Chong Su Li Kenyar Grand Ballroom			
3.30pm – 5.10pm	Parallel sessions - Session C			
	C1. Chair: Dr Irmis Zarina Ismail Theme: Critical theory	C2. Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Jeffrey Yee Theme: Case study	C3. Chair: Prof Dr Geetha Subramaniam Theme: Qualitative design in healthcare	C4. Chair: Datin Dr Ng Soo Boon Theme: Qualitative design in education
	Kenyar Grand Ballroom	Chini 1	Chini 2	Chini 4
	Kimburley Choy Voicing Women's Experience: A Feministic Hypermedia Approach	Li Jinqiu Not One Less: A Narrative Case Study	Ram Prakash Experiences of Caregivers in De-addiction Centres in Western Maharashtra, India	Malini Devi Parameswaran Facilitators that Influence Teachers' Knowledge Construction of Classroom-based Assessment Practices in Malaysia
	Chan Kit Wa, Anita Critical Reflections on Interviewing and Representing Adopted Children's Perspectives on Family Experiences	Xie Cheng Early Music Education Practices among Pre-school Teachers in Shanxi China: A Multiple Case Study	Rafidah Bahari Qualitative Survey on Factors Affecting First-year Medical Students' Performance during COVID -19 Pandemic	Aimi Nadiah Unveiling Satisfaction Level of Home-based Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic: An In-depth Online Interview
	Rui Niu A Phenomenological Study on Job Quality of Skilled GIG Worker	Li Jiao Exploring the Emotions of EFL Learners: A Multiple Case Study in a Higher Vocational College in Yiwu, China	Sharifah Najwa Syed Mohamad Challenges Faced by Hospices in Delivery of Community-Based Palliative Care: A Preliminary Study	Sharifah Milda Amirul The Transformative Role of Teachers: Shaping the Future Talent of the Nation
	Hong Zeng Call Me GBA Brothers: The Evolution of a Political Neologism through Reality Television and Social Media	CC Hoh A Job Demands Resources Model for Working from Home: Malaysian Female Workers' Experiences	Maryam Gharib Qualitative Analysis of Health Care Frauds: Uncovering Healthcare Process	Nurul Atiah Ilyia binti Mohd Ariff Krishnan Motivations and Implications of Higher Education Students Engaging in Sustainability Initiatives: A Beach-Cleaning Project
	Muhammad Afif Fathullah Reflection on Applying Semi-structured Interview in a Delphi First Round	Hooi Chee Mei Importance of Meta-discourse Forms in COVID-19 Malaysian News	Mohd Fazrul Abd Rahim New Generation in Workplace: Are we Ready?	Budour Ahmed Alfarsi Online Learning Satisfaction: A Pilot Study

Conference programme

24th November 2023 - Day 1 (cont'd)

Time	Agenda
5.10pm – 6.00pm	Hi-Tea/ Awards Reception/ Networking Kenyir Grand Ballroom

Conference programme

25th November 2023 (Day 2)

Time	Agenda			
8.15am – 9.55am	Parallel sessions - Session D			
	D1. Chair: Dr Irmis Zarina Ismail Theme: Phenomenology	D2. Chair: Dr Balvinder Kaur Kler Theme: Data analysis	D3. Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Jeffrey Yee Theme: Qualitative design in industry	D4. Chair: Prof Dr Mohd Shahrim Abd Karim Theme: Qualitative designs
	Kenyir Grand Ballroom	Chini 1	Chini 2	Chini 4
	Azral Mazlan Paradox of Plenty: Designing and Conducting a Qualitative Research Design to Explain the Existence of Resource-rich Low Income	Sally Anne Param Navigating towards new approaches: The attempt to measure the significance of urban youth aspirations in Malaysia	Li Lok Yee To Better Understand the Lived Experiences of Psychiatric Nurses of Workplace Violence from Patients in Psychiatric Units in Hong Kong	Nur Faraheen Abd Rahman Clinical Placements and its Influence on Clinical Reasoning Teaching and Learning in Primary Care Medical Education: A Four-phase Approach
	Mahadirin Hj Ahmad Phenomenological Research: Practice and Challenges	Hanaa Samaha A Cardiff Grammar Analysis of Mental Processes in Modern Standard Arabic	Liang Mengjia Exploring the Potential Roles of Food Videos on TikTok to Develop Culinary Destination Image in Changsha City, China	Fatimah Ahmad Fauzi Sequential Mixed-methods Exploration among Aggressive Secondary School Students
	Narina A.Samah Examining Epistemic Cognition During Teaching Experience among Malaysian Pre-service Teachers	Nor Liza Ali Language Management Theory in Case Study Research Design	Lau Chi Sing Psychiatric Nurses' perception on Service Users Experience of Involuntary Admission in Psychiatric Hospital Setting of Hong Kong	Mining Liang The Lived Experience of Secondary School Teachers in Supporting Students with Mental Health Issue: A Descriptive Phenomenological Study
	Anisah Zainab Musa Exploring Former Young Male Prisoners' Self-growth in Managing Challenges	Ong Shyi Nian Orthographic and Phonological Integration of Malay Words of the <i>Pantuns</i> in the <i>Dondang Sayang</i>	Mushera Bibi Ambaras Khan/Ida Madeiha Toxic Work Condition and Effect of Mental health in Malaysia: Evidence from Patients and Caretakers	Nadine Hayudini Nograles Piloting an Approach to Agenda Structure in Student-led Meetings within Various Programmes in Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed)
	Hadijah Jaffri Exploring Comics as a Tool of Authentic Assessment	Qiule Li Presupposition Triggers in Chinese Phone Scam Conversations	Fadhilah Fatnin Asri Afendi Qualitative Research: Employer Branding Influences on Recruitment Outcomes	-

Conference programme

25th November 2023 - Day 2 (cont'd)

Time	Agenda			
9.55am - 10.20am	Refreshments/ Sponsors/ Networking Ballroom Foyer		Statworks Chini 4	
10.20am – 12.00pm	Parallel sessions - Session E			
	E1. Chair: Dr Adura Ahmad Theme: Reflexivity/ reflection	E2. Chair: Dr Irmī Zarina Ismail Theme: Narrative analysis	E3. Chair: Prof Dr Khatijah Lim Abdullah Theme: Qualitative design in healthcare	E4. Chair: Dr Nur Sofurah Mohd Faiz Theme: Issues in qualitative research
	Kenyir Grand Ballroom	Chini 1	Chini 2	Chini 4
	Crystal Kwan Conducting Life History Interviews with Older Adults with Lived Experiences of Poverty: Reflections from Millennial and Gen Z	Low Man Chung Flourishing through Work Intensification: A Qualitative Inquiry into Lived-experience of Academic Staff in Public Research Universities	Nur Shahirah Mohd Yasin Investigation into Educational Content in Developing an Interactive Multimedia- based Application for Type-II Diabetes Mellites	Christine Walsh Using Qualitative Photovoice Interviews to Discover the role of Biophilia for Older Homeless Shelter Residents
	Ng Joo Hou Lived Experiences of Discipleship among Malaysian Christians in the Collectivistic Culture	Loshni Nair A Qualitative Method for Critical Narrative Research	Siti Sabrina Kamarudin From Isolation to Empowerment: A Qualitative Exploration of Maternal Postpartum Depression Experiences and their Mental Needs for Postpartum Mental Healthcare	Nurliyana Ismail Into the unknown: Do preschool teachers know the ABC of CEFR?
	Chia Chi Kuan Researcher Reflexivity and Stakeholders' Feedback within Charmaz Grounded Theory Approach	Mohd Syarin Aman Ahmad Fuat Enhancing Income Generation through Domestic Repeat Visitors' Savouring Experience at Homestay Programme in Malaysia	Siti Maisara Amir The perception and Acceptability of Human Papillomavirus DNA Self-sampling Test: A Qualitative Study	Rachel Decruz Questioning Questioners: Interviewing Legal Professionals
	Al Karim Dato Researching the Margins: Qualitative Research as Praxis Aesthetics for Social Justice	Zhang Xin Enhancing Brand Development Strategies for Fitness Apps in Social Media: A Case Study of 'Keep'	Mamatha Shivananda Pai Addressing Healthcare Disparity: Exploring Needs of LGBTQIA+	Isayku Hassan Analysis of Sources and Channels of Disinformation Reported by Electronic Newspaper in Malaysia
	Risky Harisa Haslan Reflexivity: Doing Qualitative Research on Individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Mohd Nur Syufaat Jamiran Intrusiveness in Observation: Catching the Intangible Elements	Nurul Athirah Naserrudin Seeing 'monkey' Malaria through the eye of Communities at risk at Kudat, Sabah	Nurshaidah Mohamad Sari Experience and Impact of Interviewer-interviewee Power Relationship

Conference programme

25th November 2023 - Day 2 (cont'd)

Time	Agenda
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Keynote 3: Dr Martin Christensen Kenyir Grand Ballroom
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Lunch/ Networking Makan Kitchen

Keynote 1

Incorporating Cultural Sensitivity into Narrative Qualitative Research

"This presentation will begin by identifying the many "approaches" or "modes of inquiry" for conducting qualitative research. Professor Creswell will describe major "approaches" being used in international qualitative research and presented within his qualitative methods books. Within these many possibilities, Professor Creswell will then describe narrative research as an important qualitative approach gaining prominence in international research. Within narrative research, he will then focus on "writing with cultural sensitivity" and what that means to him, and how researchers need to be aware of and incorporate into their narrative studies elements of their culture. He will illustrate this incorporating by reporting on his own narrative study, "Uncovering Grief: Living with Parent Loss as an Adult." His narrative study, a grief memoir, forced him to challenge his cultural assumptions and incorporate his United States Midwestern culture into his writings."

Professor Dr John W. Creswell is a professor of family medicine and senior research scientist in the Michigan Mixed Methods Program at the University of Michigan. He is the author of numerous articles and books on research design, qualitative research, and mixed methods research. During his many years at the University of Nebraska, he held the Clifton Endowed Professor Chair, served as Director of the Mixed Methods Research Office, co-founded SAGE's Journal of Mixed Methods Research, and was an adjunct faculty member and consultant at the University of Michigan. Since 2020, he was appointed to an adjunct professor faculty position at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. He currently lives in Ashiya, Japan and Honolulu, Hawaii.



Prof Dr John W. Creswell
University of Michigan

Keynote 2

Defending Criticality: Bringing voices from the margins to mainstream

In this session, Dr. Chong will share her perspective on where qualitative research is currently positioned in Malaysia especially in view of how qualitative researchers are constantly confronting mainstream, default post-positivist perspectives within the Malaysian research context. Drawn from her work, Illustrations and examples of how qualitative researchers soldier on amidst systemic, paradigmatic challenges will show the ways in which they demonstrate criticality in social research. This talk seeks to encourage social researchers to be reflexive of their own positions in research in order to defend criticality and to bring voices from the margins to mainstream.



Dr Chong Su Li
Universiti Teknologi
PETRONAS

Dr. Chong Su Li is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Management and Humanities, Institute of Self Sustainable Building, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia. She is also Head of UTP's University Social Responsibility (Education Pillar). She obtained a PhD in Education from University of Cambridge, UK where she was the recipient of St. Edmund's College Dean's Award (2014). Her research interests are in literacy and language education, particularly in the intersections of multilingualism, multimodality and meaning-making. She is the 2021 recipient for United Kingdom Literacy Association's (UKLA) Brenda Eastwood Award for Inclusion and Diversity in recognition of her literacy work in multilingual, multiethnic and multicultural communities. Her edited book *Charting an Asian Trajectory for Literacy Education: Connecting Past, Present and Future Literacies* (2021), published by Routledge, was awarded UKLA's Academic Book Award 2022 (Highly Commended). Su Li is also the current President of Qualitative Research Association of Malaysia (QRAM).

Keynote 3

Classical vs Neoclassical Approaches to Qualitative Methods

The growing interest in qualitative research in the Asian context means that it is establishing itself as an approach that is gaining acceptance against a background of traditional quantitative methods. However, there appears to be dilution of now what constitutes qualitative research methods. In this keynote address, Dr Christensen, reflects on the traditions of qualitative methods from the big four to the variety of different approaches of analysing qualitative data. He argues are we 'missing the point' about what qualifies as qualitative research especially in the more technosociological landscape we now find ourselves in as well as the seemingly hybridisation of qualitative research to encompass more for less.



Dr Martin Christensen
The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University

Dr Martin Christensen is the Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He has been a nurse, academic and researcher for over 30 years and currently leads a programme of research around qualitative methodologies applying these into a clinical and social context. He also has extensive experience in critical care nursing practice, research and education as well as actively researching teaching and learning and evaluating innovative practices that enhance student understanding, application and integration. His area of qualitative expertise lies in phenomenological research particularly around the lived experience. He is currently supervising 11 higher degree research students all with a focus on qualitative research methodologies.

Abstract

An inquiry into the Lives of Queer Chinese Malaysians: The Quest for Queer Space and Identity Reconciliation

Chua Shu Cean

Birkbeck, University of London

The experiences of Queer Chinese Malaysians (QCMs) as they navigate the complexities of seeking acceptance and managing conflicting identities within a predominantly cisheteronormative familial and social environment are intricate yet unexplored. Any inquiry challenging the preconceived notions and stereotypes about Queer Malaysians can be unsettling within the sociopolitical milieu. This study embraces a post-structuralist framework, adopting a relativist ontological stance and a social constructionist epistemological approach to understand participants' lived experiences. The research cautiously uses intersectionality and queer theory as critical lenses to illuminate the complexity of QCM identity development. With the current purposive sample size of 12 participants recruited through prudent snowball sampling or a mindful chain referral process, data is collected employing a go-along method combined with in-depth, semi-structured interviews and photo elicitation. The inquiry method is an inductive, bottom-up approach to elucidating how QCMs utilise Queer space and space-making means, such as migration and new media, in their quest for acceptance and identity reconciliation. The preliminary findings are consistent with the theoretical framework as emerging themes suggest QCMs employ various strategies to navigate diverse experiences in their Queer identity development and forming Queer spaces. There is new information about how QCMs endeavour to find and assert their Queer identities and eventually reclaim, expand and establish Queer spaces where their identity can operate. These findings will contribute to the larger discourse on Queer space and identity work, challenging existing assumptions and stereotypes about Queer Malaysians while promoting a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of their lived experiences. Albeit ongoing, this study has potentially paved the way for future studies focusing on underrepresented groups within Malaysia's Queer community, fostering a more diverse and inclusive discourse on Queer identity development in the country. The data represents the voices of QCMs, earlier unheard but now ventilated and analysed, thus facilitating a deeper understanding of the intersectionality between identity, culture, and space.

Keywords: Queer Chinese Malaysians, LGBTQ+, queer space, identity reconciliation, qualitative inquiry, go-along methodology, queer theory, migration, new media, Malaysia.

Abstract

Conducting Life History Interviews with Older Adults with Lived Experiences of Poverty: Reflections from Millennial and Gen Z

Crystal Kwan, Ho Chung Tam, Xin Yu Lin,
Yan Ho Chung, & Tak Shuen Mah
Department of Applied Social Sciences
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The life history approach, commonly used in the social sciences, involves collecting longitudinal data retrospectively by seeking an individual's account of their life over different periods of time. The stories that the participant chooses to share is, from their perspective, what is most real and most important. These chosen stories are what brings us, the readers and researchers, closest to understanding the person's lived experiences. These interviews also reveal a representation of history that provides insights into the socio-cultural milieu of an individual's past. Life history interviews not only give access to a person's unique lived experience and help the researcher and reader gain a deeper understanding of that person, but it can highlight how such life experiences are similar to others, or even universal. This paper documents the reflections of a young research team involved in interviewing, transcribing, and analysing life history interviews with 60 independent elder-headed households (female living alone [n = 38], male living alone [n = 11], and living with spouse only [n= 11] with lived experiences of poverty in Hong Kong. Conducting the interviews with the participants, (re)playing the audio files, carefully listening to every word and detail during transcription, and (re)analysing the sentences and paragraphs drew us into complex stories of "growing up," family, work, love, loss, grief, survival, pain, suffering, joy, resilience, adversity, loneliness, and "growing old"—powerful stories that evoked strong emotions and ethical complexities that needed to be addressed. This paper highlights the value of life history interview and discuss the ethical complexities that can arise. Also, our reflective accounts highlight how our encounters with this approach led to a deeper understanding of ourselves (our personal selves), qualitative research (our professional selves), and aging, old age, and older adults (our future selves). The life history interview encounter is not only a space to understand social phenomenon and the "other," but also the self.

Keywords: Life history interviews, intergenerational, poverty, self-reflexivity.

Abstract

Navigating towards new approaches: The attempt to measure the significance of urban youth aspirations in Malaysia

Sally Anne Param

Australian Matriculation Programme
Sunway University

The lived reality for young people in a highly urbanized environment is a challenge that previous generations did not have to face. Young people not only experience the transformation of the physical environment they live in, but also the reworkings of values, family, education, and the economy that are now different. Within this constant flux of a changing landscape, engaging with young people for research purposes is also an endeavour that needs to be dynamic. This paper looks at how the aspirations of young people can be documented, as they desire to bring sustainable change to their quotidian life. Measuring their aspirations qualitatively is thus problematized; where older, more established methods may not be able to depict the true intentions they have. This paper is based on an experimental study with 15 undergraduate university students who express their ideals for a sustainable future through the ArcGIS Story Maps platform. This tool enables a display of multiple multi-modal texts - written essays, reports, photo essays, embedded videos, survey polls, maps, historical documents, visual pictures, case studies and even layout designs - as a demonstration of how young people can express their views qualitatively. The main sampling technique used is content analysis. Thus far, this study results in more questions being raised than answers being provided. Nonetheless, ongoing findings reveal that urban youth today are not only more willing to express their aspirations, but they do so in more creative ways. It is hoped that this experimental study may create a renewed understanding of young people and their aspirations. The multi-modality of the studied tool raises the pertinent question as to whether researchers are ready to shift gear.

Keywords: Young people, aspirations, sustainability, story maps.

Abstract

Quality transition strategies facilitating the transition from teenage to adulthood for persons with intellectual disabilities and their family carers

Mo Yuen-Han

Department of Social Work
Hong Kong Shue Yan University

In Hong Kong, persons with a mild to moderate level of intellectual disabilities (PIDs) are waiting to transition to post-school placements such as sheltered workshops or day activity centres. Currently, there is still a lack of seamless transition between special school and post-school placements. Local research studies demonstrate the need to further explore the issue of transition support. International studies have found that different types of transition strategies can be provided to enhance the quality of transition at the individual, family, school, and societal levels. The research objectives include (a) to examine factors that promote quality transition between special school and post-school placements for PIDs and their family carers; (b) to investigate the components of overall transition plan and the type of quality transition strategies; (c) to examine the relationship between transition strategies, psychological well-being, and quality of life for PIDs and their family carers; (d) to recommend quality transition strategies which can be adopted by special schools and social service agencies that will help the transition. A qualitative method was employed to explore the details of transition strategies employed in both special schools and social service vocational centres. NVivo software was used to support the thematic coding process. In total, 34 young people with intellectual disabilities, their parents, teachers, speech therapists, social workers, and school principals participated in the semi-structured interviews. The results indicated that transition strategies were categorized into six types namely a) personal health care; b) social and interpersonal training; c) vocational training; d) school and hostel curriculum; e) family support work; and f) family-based training. Vocational training strategies were the most frequent and popular strategies and in total twelve types of vocational training were discovered. The results bring implications to the future design of transition strategies and suggest collaboration between special schools and social services agencies, parental input and involvement.

Keywords: Special education, social work, transition support, persons with intellectual disabilities, family carers.

Abstract

Clinical Placement and its Influence on Clinical Reasoning Teaching and Learning in Primary Care Medical Education: A Four-phase Approach

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Clinical placement is a crucial component of medical education, particularly in primary care settings where students can develop their clinical reasoning skills. This study explores the influence of clinical placement on clinical reasoning teaching and learning in primary care medical education using a four-phase approach: entering, traversing, expanding, and egressing. This study also examines four prominent social interactions that manifest as links between the cognition and contexts of clinical reasoning teaching and learning during each phase. This study uses an ethnographic approach, with data collected through field notes and semi-structured interviews with medical students, clinical teachers and patients. Reflexive thematic analysis was used to identify key themes and patterns in the data using activity theory as the analytical lens made visible by activity systems as the unit of analysis. During the entering phase, students negotiate their roles and responsibilities through interactions with patients and clinical teachers. The traversing phase marked students and clinical teachers navigating clinical reasoning education in the clinical environment through formal learning outcomes. The expanding phase involves students engaging with these participants through specific learning tools. Finally, during the egressing phase, students prepare to leave and reflect on their transformative learning experiences after they have left the clinical placement. The findings of this study contribute to a better understanding of the influence of clinical placement on clinical reasoning teaching and learning in primary care medical education. The study also provides insights into the social interactions of negotiation, navigation, engagement, and transformation of clinical reasoning teaching and learning during each phase of the clinical placement. These insights can inform the development of effective clinical reasoning teaching and learning strategies, in addition to providing suitable scaffolds and support in primary care medical education.

Keywords: Clinical reasoning, primary care, clinical placement, activity theory, four phases of clinical placement.

Abstract

A Cardiff Grammar Analysis of Mental Processes in Modern Standard Arabic

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Despite being known for their rich lexicons and associations with various senses, the analysis of Mental Processes (MP), remained restricted to either the semantic description provided by Arabic traditional grammarians centuries ago or to the limited modern studies that focus on only one sub-type over the others. Therefore, this study attempts to examine MP in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) to identify their main types and sub-types, the number and structural forms of Complements associated with them, and the semantic roles they realize in light of the Cardiff Grammar (CG). The data were collected from 802 verbal clauses, extracted from thirty articles published in five Arabic daily newspapers. To achieve the study's aim, the study adopted the qualitative approach in that each extracted clause was individually analysed into its main verb (process) and Participant Roles (PR). The findings have revealed that MSA shows a considerable variety of MP in terms of the three main types and sub-types of MP, that is 'emotive', 'cognition', and 'perception'. Not only that, MSA exhibits a different number of Complements that could be filled by nominal groups (nominalization), non-finite clauses, and even prepositional groups. Based on the absence and presence of the Binder *anna* (that), the 'cognition' processes have been analysed as either two-role processes or three-role processes, whereas 'communication' processes as either three-role processes or four-role processes. Therefore, four-role processes have been found to exist in MSA albeit less frequently. The reason is that the Binder *anna* (that) exercises a substantial effect on the elements following it by turning them into one single projected unit that replaces both Complements. The study has concluded that in languages like MSA, the word case endings play an essential role in determining the functions of the clause elements.

Keywords: Arabic, Cardiff Grammar, mental processes, semantics.

Abstract

Exploring comics as a tool of authentic assessment

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Comics are accepted as educational tools for teaching literacy at lower and secondary educational levels, but their potential for sophisticated engagement at tertiary levels of education has not been completely explored. This paper describes reflection notes from a two-semester, two-course pedagogical exploration on comics that was conducted at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of tertiary education. The exploration centred on using comics as an instrument for authentic assessment. It began with the authors, who were course instructors for the related courses, determining targeted learning outcomes, how comics fit into the overall learning process, and assessment strategies relevant to the usage of comics as a tool. Then, students were briefed using a standardised instruction template. For the undergraduate students, they were given time to investigate online comics, and choose comic strips that met the assessment requirements for a course. Then, students must compose a reflection on a comic they have chosen based on course-related themes. In the first semester, postgraduate students were instructed similarly to undergraduates, but in the second semester, instead of using available comics, they were required to create comics based on the themes of various topics and provide a brief description of the comic based on theories they learn in class. Instructors evaluated student performance on the allotted assessment based on specific criteria which aligned with the programme learning outcomes. Even though the pedagogical exploration is still in its infancy, it has been discovered that comics allow students of various abilities to draw and create connections from their personal experience and observations using words and images, with a level of freedom unmatched by most traditional, word-based text-based assessments. The multimodal structure of comics enables students to generate, recognise, and reorganise meaning. The comics also provide multiple opportunities for sophisticated engagement between educational concepts and contemporary issues, especially at the tertiary level, where prior experience and external exposure enrich learning experience.

Keywords: Action research, authentic assessment, comics, pedagogical exploration.

Abstract

Voicing Women's Experiences: A Feminist, Hypermedia Approach

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This presentation discusses how and why we use interactive media (<http://shorturl.at/orFXY>) and re-storytelling to create Creative Analytic Practices (CAP) and feminist knowledge that challenge traditional research methods. Since the 1990s, scholars have acknowledged that language constructs truth rather than naming a pre-discursive truth. This insight, while resonating with feminists who critique positivist knowledge production, is met with scepticism regarding postmodernists' moral relativism. Some feminist scholars, like Haraway, strive for partial and localized objectivity and develop a feminist post-constructionist epistemology influenced by the Deleuzian minoritarian and rhizomatic approaches. To intervene in knowledge production practices, post-constructionist feminist researchers use Creative Analytic Practices (CAP) that combine creative writing techniques with qualitative research analysis. To disrupt traditional forms of knowledge production, feminist scholars experiment with various writing styles, including fictional writing, polyphonic novels, poetry, and hypertext, to explore and challenge traditional power structures and ways of knowing. Benefitting from the feminist CAP mentioned above these insights, we produced a feminist CAP in hypermedia, which includes reflexive writing experiments and the re-enactment of 43 older women's life stories in hypermedia. We reference feminist post-constructionist CAP, the Deleuzian rhizomatic narrative inquiry, and feminist film theories and films to complicate the relationships between women's voices, lived experiences, and their representation by researchers. Our goal is to produce a self-conscious, research-based, feminist post-constructionist hypermedia work that highlights women's agency under socio-cultural constraints and acknowledges the complexity of selfhood, knowledge, and truths. As our CAP is also a participatory art, we engaged the audience and invited young people to explore the life stories of older women in Hong Kong. Through this approach, we hope to create a more engaging and accessible way for audiences to experience and interact with the stories of older women.

Keywords: Feminist Creative Analytic Practices, Hong Kong, women's life stories, hypermedia, representations.

Abstract

Phenomenological research: Practice and challenges.

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The phenomenological approach concerns the construct of meaning based on the people's experience. In general, all the qualitative methods are on that rules to create meaning and stories from different respondents. In 2012, the writer began the journey of learning and practicing the skill during his doctorate studies at the Universiti Sains Malaysia. The first application was to construct the meaning of Strike related to the survival of trade unions in Malaysia. Combined with case studies, the phenomenological is based on interviews with 14 respondents from two types of unions. First is the Railwaymen Union of Malays (RUM) and others are a combination of several trade unions in Kuala Lumpur. The meaning is finally based on the concept of "will but impossible". Besides that, the second application was in research about Border Studies in Pulau Sebatik which is an island shared between Malaysia and Indonesia. During this Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) research, it was found that the meaning is constructed based on the name of the Island SEBATIK which consists of three main themes. First SEmpadan (Borders), second BANgsa (Nation), and third patrioTIK (patriotic). Based on those two experiences, this paper will focus on the explanations of the first and second construct of the meaning starting with proposal, data collecting, data analysis and finally writing the report. The second part of this paper is related to the challenges faced by the authors during the research at every step of the process. Among these is during the first and second-order construct to define the 'essence' of the phenomenon before defining the meaning. After that, the challenges also happened to present the meaning and get 'yes' from the audience. Finally, the writer will discuss the future of the phenomenological potential based on the findings especially related to SEBATIK. With that real experience, the writer concludes the fact implication to self-development when he finds himself thinking that every action of the human being or phenomenon has a meaning and needs to be understood with the quote "Our action as a human being based on what the meaning of the action".

Keywords: Phenomenological, Railwaymen Union of Malaya, Sebatik Island.

Abstract

Not One Less: A Narrative Case Study

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In China, the percentage of male nurses rose from 1.8% in 2012 to 3% at the end of 2021, with a total number of 1,505,400. Demand from clinical nursing and nursing development for male nurses is increasing as they play an irreplaceable role in nursing practice. However, not every male nursing student can successfully transfer to a clinical nurse, which is caused by many reasons. One main reason is academic failure. A case study with narrative methodology was conducted to describe the journey of a detained male nursing student back to the main cohort and transfer to a clinical nurse candidate. The owner of the case was required to expose inner thoughts by writing dairy and content analysis was implemented to figure out the real reasons for academic failure. Result: In this case, the main reason for academic failure was appearance anxiety as the owner was overweight, which led to self-abasement and gave himself up as hopeless. This situation was noticed and discovered by a nursing teacher who launched a saving journey. The saving journey can be divided into five stages: noticing improper academic performance, exposing unspoken reasons by writing dairy, analysing reasons behind the performance, providing feedback and guidance and keeping social support. Each student's academic failure or underperforming may be caused by unspoken reasons. Teachers should care about them and recognize the hidden cause with techniques. Listening to students and providing social support to them are effective ways to help them back on the right path. As nursing educators, besides delivering medical knowledge and nursing skills to students, educational activities and programs should focus more on students themselves and facilitate their personal growth and career development, not one less. This research is ongoing and more participants will be interviewed since data saturation.

Keywords: Appearance anxiety, male nurse, nursing students.

Abstract

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) On Psycho-Physical Training, Physical Training And Psychological Training Among Malaysia University Students' Athletes

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Every institution of tertiary education would emphasise students to excel and reach their maximum potential both academically as well as in sports performance. This global trend is spreading to Malaysia and impacting those who would be athletes. The Malaysian Ministry of Health has encouraged educators and researchers to design a framework or module to encourage training activities for young athletes. The aim of this study is to develop a model for evaluating the impact of psycho-physical, physical, and psychological training in the development of professional athletes. This study utilizes the qualitative research method of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to advocate a comprehensive consideration of qualitative-interpretive methodology for the three factors stated during the training that intertwined with athletes' performance. The in-depth interview was conducted with a total of seventeen athletes who were divided into two focus groups of eight to nine. The participants were gauged for the perception of their ideas, factors and components of the training. The data was analysed using a thematic approach. Three themes were extracted for each of the three components. For Psycho-Physical Training, the three themes were: (1) Tweak and strengthen athlete's mental health, (2) Benefits in preparing for a match/competition, and (3) Boost athletes' professional development. For the Physical Training: (1) Fitness, skills and interest, (2) Healthy body healthy mind, and (3) Practise fundamental skills. For the Psychological Training: (1) Methodological system, (2) Manage athletes' emotions for their performance, and (3) Assist athletes to have better self-control. The results from this study will contribute to practical strategies and techniques to be implemented by sports psychologists, counsellors, and educational authorities in assisting more university athletes to improve and enhance athletes' performance.

Keywords: Psychophysical training, cognitive restructuring, athletes, well-being, mental health.

Abstract

Researching the Margins: Qualitative Research as Praxis Aesthetics for Social Justice

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The presentation seeks to propose the pedagogical utility of critical theory/pedagogy and arts (as pedagogy for social change) in doing critical qualitative research, especially whilst researching the production and maintenance of marginalization in educational and social contexts. Given that marginalization is a product of historical, political, and socio-cultural forces that create dominance of a particular group or a culture through hegemonic means, any qualitative study of marginalization cannot remain neutral, but has to engage in critical hermeneutics. The thick description thus generated of any educational and/or social situation therefore may afford critical reading of the world that produces differential power/space between the oppressors and the oppressed. Moreover, it is argued that the margins are produced at the centre, often through the power-knowledge nexus which in turn shapes educational policy, curriculum, and pedagogy. Unearthing these circuits of 'power' in the context of qualitative research therefore requires a critical lens to read/interpret the world. The presentation will underscore the role of critical theories in enabling qualitative interpretive acts to be 'critical'. In this respect, of particular focus will be Paulo Freirean notions: dialogue and praxis. The discussion here will illuminate the dialogical nature of qualitative data which is a part and parcel of putting constructivist epistemology in action; an approach that renders a research its – qualitative-ness. Furthermore, it will be emphasized that a very act of dialogical data generation; implicitly demands critical reflection and action- praxis to keep translating and transforming meanings until multiple ontological entanglements. To visually complement the above, a brief visual ethnographic analysis of two selected artworks (a sculpture, and a mural) by migration artists- will be shared as examples of art as critical-interpretive stimulus. These offerings can aid in making qualitative research critical which is important for doing educational/sociological research in marginalized contexts.

Keywords: Qualitative, critical hermeneutics, margins, praxis, aesthetics, social justice.

Abstract

A critical evaluation of systematic review design for qualitative research

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Qualitative research faces several challenges in conducting a systematic review. Some steps in conventional systematic review need to be adapted accordingly, especially in the exhaustive search and quality assessment. Therefore, we proposed a design approach to qualitative systematic review based on established systematic review protocols in healthcare and qualitative research domains. A systematic review covers a comprehensive but not exhaustive body of relevant literature. Therefore, a purposeful sampling method can be employed to select articles for inclusion. Purposeful sampling can lead to selecting key studies that provide in-depth information pertinent to the phenomena under study. Then, a theoretical sampling can be adopted in the review process to add, test, and elaborate on the emerging theme during data analysis. The selected papers in a qualitative review should feature elements that can help answer the research question, akin to the selected key informants in a qualitative study. Thus, we seek to include a wide range of papers and select key papers that lead to important sources of knowledge. The pre-determined quality criteria stated in a systematic review can be more flexible to include important and robust findings, either as a whole or partially. We proposed inclusion criteria of a systematic review that do not pre-excluded studies; instead, they may be excluded during and after the analysis, based on the analysis criteria. In practising the concept of triangulation, we carried out both forward (citing a broad selection of references) and backward (cited by several other articles) citation searching. The proposed design approach and its application in 55 case studies of health information systems evaluation in clinical settings demonstrate the design's applicability in conducting a systematic qualitative review.

Keywords: Evaluation, systematic review, research design, qualitative, quality, case study.

Abstract

The Experience of Acculturative Stress among Chinese International Students Studying in Malaysian Universities

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This study aims to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the phenomenon of acculturative stress experienced by Chinese international students in Malaysia, with a particular focus on exploring the support systems designed to cater to their distinct needs. The internationalisation of higher education after the COVID-19 pandemic shows a growing number of Chinese students opting for non-Western institutions, including popular destinations such as Malaysia. Nevertheless, the process of adjusting to a new cultural environment poses numerous challenges that contribute to acculturative stress. Hence, it is imperative to gain a thorough understanding of the specific stressors encountered by Chinese international students in Malaysia to develop effective support systems. The research utilises a qualitative approach, employing semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with a sample of Chinese international students studying in postgraduate programs at Malaysian universities. The participants will be selected using purposive sampling, ensuring representation from different academic disciplines and various stages of their educational journey. Thematic analysis will be employed to identify patterns and themes within the data, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the participants' experiences and their perceived sources of stress. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the acculturative experiences of Chinese international students in Malaysia. By examining the specific challenges and stressors faced by this population, the research will shed light on the distinctive needs that necessitate targeted support systems. Consequently, the study aims to provide insights for educational institutions and student services to develop interventions and support mechanisms tailored to alleviate acculturative stress and enhance the overall well-being of Chinese international students in Malaysia.

Keywords: Acculturative stress, Chinese international students, Malaysia, qualitative research.

Abstract

'Researcher reflexivity and stakeholders' feedback within Charmaz Grounded Theory Approach

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This paper presents the development of a leadership succession planning model for a Malaysian public university using Charmaz's Grounded Theory Approach, with a lens of pragmatism. The selected case university is one of the research universities in Malaysia. The primary focus of this paper is on the research methodology, specifically highlighting the utilisation of reverse coding with abductive reasoning, the significance of the researchers' position and reflectivity, and obtaining feedback on the developed succession planning model from relevant stakeholders. During the study, several selective codes were developed through reverse coding with abductive reasoning, owing to surprising findings derived from inductive data collection. This was done by grouping all similar notion open codes under one selective code. The researchers' positioning and reflectivity played a critical role in ensuring the trustworthiness of the study and minimising bias influenced by the authors' preconceptions. This was achieved by adopting an outsider's view and engaging in continual self-reflection to ensure objective data analysis. Upon completing the leadership succession planning model for the selected university, feedback was obtained from stakeholders who actively participated in the case university's leadership succession planning. This step was crucial as the study took three years for data collection, from June 2020 to October 2022. It was important to account for potential changes in succession planning policies and practices that might have occurred during this period. This approach is aligned with having a mindset rooted in pragmatism and subjectivism epistemology. In conclusion, the research methodology presented in this paper offers valuable insights into the systematic development of a leadership succession planning model for a public university in Malaysia. By adopting Charmaz's Constructing Grounded Theory, with a lens of pragmatism, this study followed a comprehensive and rigorous approach to data collection and analysis, resulting in the enhanced credibility and applicability of the research findings.

Keywords: Grounded Theory approach, succession planning, model development, researcher's position and reflectivity, reverse coding.

Abstract

A Phenomenological Study on Job Quality of Skilled Gig Work in China

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A gig economy is a free market and labour system where temporary positions are common. It relies on freelancers and part-time positions as independent workers are hired for short-term commitments. The gig economy has recently grown steadily, enabling novel forms of production, consumption, cooperation, and sharing through digital connections. This has influenced the future of work and megatrends by altering the nature of work. China's gig economy has likewise risen rapidly and impacted numerous facets of daily life. According to the China Sharing Economy Development Report (2022), with an annual growth rate of 9.2%, the gig economy in China reached about RMB 3,688.1 billion in 2021. The rise of the gig economy produces numerous employment options for gig workers while bringing obstacles to job quality and human resource management practices. Many are not regarded as employees under Chinese labour law. Some companies do not provide social insurance, protection of health and safety, or parental leave. This affects the job quality of gig workers. In this study, the qualitative approach of phenomenology will be employed to delve into the lived experiences and interpretations of skilled gig workers concerning job quality. The participants will be Chinese skilled gig workers who work part-time or full-time from the entire country. Some will be interviewed online and some will be interviewed face-to-face using in-depth semi-structured interviews. The participants will be asked to describe their past and current experiences as skilled gig workers and how they perceive working as a gig worker to answer the following research questions: (1) What are Chinese skilled gig workers' experiences within the gig economy? And (2) How do skilled gig workers perceive job quality in the Chinese gig economy?

Keywords: Gig economy, skilled gig work, lived experience, HRM practices, job quality, phenomenology.

Abstract

Facilitators that Influence Teachers' Knowledge Construction of Classroom-based Assessment Practices in Malaysia

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Classroom-based assessment (CBA) is an ongoing process that serves as a tool to inform teachers' teaching and learning practices and students' progress. Teachers should have sufficient knowledge of language assessment to maximize teaching and learning practices during English lessons by carrying out efficient assessments. However, some teachers still struggle to implement CBA due to external factors and challenges. Previous studies on CBA deduced that apart from exploring teachers' knowledge of CBA, there is a need to explore the facilitators that influence teachers' knowledge construction of CBA because teachers' knowledge of CBA shapes how they implement CBA in their classrooms. With close reference to Matsuo's Theory of Experiential Learning, the facilitators that influence knowledge construction include seeking challenging tasks, critical reflection, enjoyment of work, learning goals and developmental networks. The essence of how these facilitators influence teachers' knowledge construction of CBA will be obtained through a phenomenological case-study approach with six primary school English teachers as participants in this study. The participants will be purposefully selected based on a set of criteria which includes years of teaching experience, academic qualification and trainings or courses attended pertaining to CBA. Data will be collected mainly via interviews, observations and documents. The interview protocols are validated by a team of experts from the Curriculum Development Centre. The trustworthiness of this study will be ensured via the triangulation of multiple methods and sources, member-checking and pilot study of the interview questions. The findings will be analysed inductively incorporating the steps in the descriptive phenomenological approach. Understanding how these facilitators influence teachers' knowledge construction of CBA provides insights into how teachers build upon their knowledge of CBA, challenges faced and solutions taken to overcome issues on CBA, which will enable policymakers to make sound decisions in terms of training and workshops needed to equip teachers with the necessary knowledge of CBA.

Keywords: Classroom-based assessment, facilitators, knowledge construction.

Abstract

Addressing healthcare disparity; exploring needs of LGBTQIA+

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Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, (LGBTQIA+) people struggle to identify a healthcare service that understands their problems and needs. Many LGBTQIA+ people when sick, hesitate to go to the health facility. Healthcare professionals also find it difficult to care for these as very little is studied or heard about management. When accessing healthcare, LGBTQIA+ people frequently face harassment and discrimination, which has a significant impact on healthcare disparities and inequality. This study aims to explore the healthcare needs of LGBTQIA+ in India's context. This also aims to address Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG) i.e. Reduce inequality. This study used a qualitative approach and one Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was done among eleven LGBTQIA+ individuals. The study objective was explained and written consent was taken before the interview. The interview was carried out face-to-face by the research team in the local language Kannada in one of the skill training centres. The recorded interview was transcribed and translated into English. Thematic analysis steps were used for analysis. The subthemes derived were: Provider- based stigma; Gaps in health care; living with identity dilemmas; and living with challenges. The participants expressed the experience of stigma during their visits to the healthcare facility. They expressed facing challenges related to treatment, physical examination, inadequate knowledge among the health care providers, and discrimination. Participants also expressed their expectations such as a separate clinic, and facility for the surgery at the district health facility, ward/bed reservation, provider training, and awareness in the family and the community. The theme derived from this study was 'Navigating gender identity' which involves understanding and respecting the diverse ways individuals perceive and express their gender. It is necessary to understand and address the concerns of LGBTQIA+ individuals in the health science curriculum so that health disparities can be prevented.

Keywords: Challenges, health care needs, LGBTQIA+, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), India, SDG 10.

Abstract

Understanding the Lived And Coping Among End-Stage Kidney Failure Patients On Haemodialysis Treatment: Are We Ready?

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Chronic kidney disease is a significant public health issue globally and in Malaysia because the condition is associated with increased mortality and morbidity. Although haemodialysis improves the patients' longevity, the treatment approach is restrictive and results in physical, psychological, economic, and social complications. For this reason, the purpose of this was to explore the lived and coping experiences of patients with end-stage kidney failure receiving regular haemodialysis in three private hospitals in Malaysia. A hermeneutic phenomenological design derived common meaning from participants' lived and coping experiences. In the study, data were collected using a semi-structured interview guide from 15 purposefully sampled patients with end-stage kidney failure. Data were analysed using the interpretative phenomenological analysis principle. The patients with end-stage kidney failure reported experiencing emotional distress, life limitations, financial burdens, knowledge deficits, and varying perceptions of the haemodialysis treatment. Based on the analysis, the coping experiences were willingness to live, high-quality dialysis, financial assistance, social support, and hope were coping strategies used by patients with end-stage kidney failure. It was identified that patients with end-stage kidney failure used unique coping strategies such as applying perfume and using clothes to conceal the impact of haemodialysis on their bodies, which is not comprehensively discussed in published literature. Nurses who deliver care to patients with end-stage kidney failure should focus on mitigating emotional distress, increasing knowledge related to end-stage kidney failure, and improving the perception of the haemodialysis treatment. Delivering high-quality dialysis and providing social support are indispensable nursing roles in helping patients cope with haemodialysis treatment. It is crucial to provide haemodialysis patients with preparatory approaches that educate them on what to expect after an end-stage kidney failure diagnosis and treatment initiation. By doing so, healthcare personnel can improve their treatment experiences and coping strategies.

Keywords: Coping experiences, haemodialysis, hermeneutic phenomenology, end-stage kidney failure, lived experiences, Malaysia.

Abstract

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools for Diabetes Care: Exploring Patient Attitude and Perspective

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The prevalence of diabetes is still rising across the world. The National Health Morbidity Survey (NHMS, 2019) revealed that diabetes is expected to affect 7 million Malaysian adults aged 18 years and older by 2025, posing a major public health risk with a diabetes prevalence of 31.3%. Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have been used in medicine and health in general throughout the previous few decades. This rapidly expanding AI has applications that might revolutionize how diabetes can be managed. However, in Malaysia, the use of AI in diabetes care is still new. Thus, before developing and implementing an AI system for diabetes care, it would be very valuable to understand the patients' attitudes and perspectives on the use of AI in diabetes care. This paper aims to present the preliminary work for a qualitative in-depth interview study that aims to explore patients' attitudes and perspectives on the use of AI in diabetes care. The concepts of attitude, perspective, and theories and models that are related are examined. A review of past literature concerning the patients' attitude and perspective are deliberated. From the literature review, many factors were discovered, and the conceptual framework is proposed as the foundation of this study. The conceptual framework will guide the data collection process whereby a qualitative thematic analysis will be employed as the approach for this study. The process of thematic analysis, based on a descriptive phenomenological approach involved (1) achieving familiarity with the data through open-minded reading, (2) searching for meanings and themes, and (3) organizing themes into meaningful wholeness. It is important to understand the patient's attitude and perspective regarding AI tools because it will have a positive impact on how research is conducted to ensure that the work is relevant and useful and that any concerns can be addressed at the beginning.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, patient, attitude, perspective, qualitative.

Abstract

Mixed Method Research in the Critical Realist Paradigm: Applying Case Study and Descriptive Statistics to Inquire into Teleworkers' ICT Use in the Home Setting

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Critical realism (CR) addresses inquiries to the nature of reality. This approach seeks to “provide clear, concise, and empirically supported statements about causation”, focusing on explanation of a phenomenon. The three layers of empirical, actual and real is core to the CR approach that posits not all that is observable can be explained, though the impact of underlying mechanisms may exist in the empirical but may not be always observable. We have applied the CR lens to explain an observed phenomenon (the empirical), in this case the teleworkers' digital use when working from home and explore the causation of the mechanisms of the phenomena using a two-phased mixed method– phase 1 involved approximately hour-long in-depth interviews of three cases and phase 2 involved descriptive statistics from online survey of 306 subjects. We further interpret the findings from the two phases using thought operations to understand the underlying mechanisms of teleworkers ICT use when working from home. The CR paradigm has gained increasing attention in IS literature which further calls for IS studies to adopt pluralism, nevertheless there is a lack of such studies. The fact that CR encourages a wide variety of methods allows for us to use multiple methods in order to understand the different domains of its stratified ontology. Through this study we intend to showcase how qualitative research and descriptive statistics was used to deepen and expand the understanding of teleworking. The study also brings in questions related to how CR seeks to bring about a middle ground between the natural and social sciences. The data indicate multiple factors that influence the teleworkers daily life digital use for work that could impact productivity. Though digital technologies are going to play an important role in the new normal, there has to be careful considerations of its impact on the teleworker's life based on the themes that were identified in our study.

Keywords: Critical realism, multi method approach, telework, ICT use, India.

Abstract

Examining Epistemic Cognition During Teaching Experience among Malaysian Pre-service Teachers: Work in Progress

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In accordance with the objectives of the Malaysia Educational Blueprint 2013–2025, there is an increasing demand for teachers to equip their students with both holistic knowledge and essential twenty-first-century competencies, particularly those pertaining to higher-order thinking skills (HOTS). As evident from the existing body of literature, teachers in Malaysia have faced challenges in effectively applying the HOTS approach, mostly attributed to their inadequate competence in this area of expertise. To overcome such challenges, past literature suggests that one of the many ways to enhance higher-order thinking among teachers is by encouraging them to critically examine their thinking about knowledge of teaching practice. Within the context of educational research in Malaysia, there exists a substantial corpus of scholarly works dedicated to epistemology. However, studies on epistemic cognition among Malaysian pre-service teachers have yet to be explored. Thus, the aim of this qualitative research is to examine epistemic cognition during the teaching experience among pre-service teachers as a means of enhancing their higher-order thinking in relation to their future teaching practice and teacher professionalism. Guided by the 3R-EC Framework, the study specifically seeks to answer these questions: Based on their teaching experience, (1) How do pre-service teachers reflect on their classroom practice? (2) How do pre-service teachers engage in reflexive thinking? and (3) How do pre-service teachers engage in resolved actions? This research employs a phenomenological study of 20 final-year students who had undergone their teaching practicum. Qualitative data collection will involve in-depth interviews with the participants as well as data analysis using interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). The findings would expect to derive an explanatory framework that could be used as a guideline for enhancing critical thinking among twenty-first-century teachers to accommodate their demanding roles and responsibilities in accelerating the learning process among students.

Keywords: Epistemic cognition, reflexivity, critical reflection, phenomenology, teaching experience, pre-service teachers, teacher education.

Abstract

Critical reflections on interviewing and re-presenting adopted children's perspectives on family experiences

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Since the introduction of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC] in 1989, children have been increasingly recognised as competent social actors whose views are not necessarily the same as adults, and their voices should be heard. These concerns spurred researchers' interest in developing various qualitative research methods to capture children's perspectives. However, qualitative research about adopted children's perspectives remains few, as young adoptees are considered as having 'double vulnerability'—being children and requiring protection. Despite using open-ended interview questions and child-friendly methods in some qualitative studies, the focus seems to be more on assessing children's competencies in understanding adoption—its nature, process, and differentiation from birth parenting/parents—than on their lived experiences. Furthermore, despite the long history of adoption in Chinese societies, there has been no qualitative research on Chinese child adoptees. This paper addresses these concerns and gaps by outlining the challenges in designing, conducting, and presenting qualitative research on 13 adopted children in Hong Kong. Specifically, we propose to use 'the lens of everyday life' to replace 'the adoption lens' in research design, as the latter analytical frame seems to reinforce the view of deficit and vulnerable adopted children. We also unravel the strategies and challenges when researching with young Chinese adoptees, such as utilising drawing, photo-solicitation, and conducting interviews in their room/turf while navigating parental protection and reticence. We then discuss the complexity of translating and representing children's narratives in the local context, such as grappling with issues of translation and cultural and normative expectations when producing the first bi-lingual picture book on *The Lifeworld of Adopted Children* [https://issuu.com/adoption_picturebook].

Keywords: Adopted children, children's perspectives, child-friendly research methods, cultural specificity, vulnerability, protection, picture book.

Abstract

Exploring Former Young Male Prisoners' Self-Growth in Managing Challenges

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Self-growth is achieved by the acquisition of new abilities, behaviours, actions, attitudes, habits, and emotions to benefit various elements of life. The process of self-growth and maturity involves cognitive and psychosocial developmental domains. Young people's developmental domains are interrelated and highly influenced by their experiences and circumstances. However, being detained for a period of time can affect any young person's development in the context of positive self-growth. Due to the restrictions placed on their activities and socialisation, they cannot make the most of their potential for self-growth during their period of detention. Studies have found that education and religious knowledge are factors that can reinforce the development of self-growth among them. This phenomenology study explores the development of self-growth of eight former young male prisoners aged 26 years old and below through purposive sampling. They were asked to recall their experiences of regaining their freedom and looking for a better life. All the participants in this study were incarcerated for drug charges. A 60-minute interview session was conducted virtually via the online platform. A set of interview questions was administered to the participants and yielded information on their self-growth. The session was later transcribed, and interpretive qualitative analysis (IPA) was used to evaluate the transcribed session. Thematic analysis of the interview revealed three themes: (1) guilt and regret leading to repentance, (2) increased knowledge and spirituality, and (3) self-control and self-empowerment. These findings highlight the manifestation of self-growth of Malaysian former young male prisoners. Increased knowledge and spirituality are believed to be important dimensions influencing former young male prisoners' self-growth. The educational and religious programmes provided by the prison have helped these male prisoners to build their technical abilities, self-esteem, and larger sets of generic skills and be better able to cope with their lives following release.

Keywords: Former young male prisoners, self-growth, managing challenges.

Abstract

Importance of Meta-discourse Forms in COVID-19 Malaysian News

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Meta-discourse features are the ways in which writers express their opinions and construct text to make it credible. There are two types of meta-discourse features: textual and interpersonal. It reveals the writer's awareness of the readers and his or her need for elaboration, clarification, guidance, and interaction. In expressing an awareness of the text, the writer also makes the readers aware of it, and this only happens when he or she has a clear, reader-oriented reason for doing so. Although meta-discourse features are used, sometimes writers use them incorrectly. As a result, the text becomes incoherent and disengaging. Research has been conducted on meta-discourse features in various academic contexts. However, studies in Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) are still limited. This study aims to identify the forms of meta-discourse features that are commonly used in COVID-19 news. The study adapts Dafouz-Milne's (2008) model to identify these features used in two news portals. Qualitative data were collected from 15 COVID-19 news of The Star and The Edge respectively from January 2022 to May 2022 during the pandemic era and 15 COVID-19 news of The Star and The Edge respectively from June 2022 to December 2022 during the endemic era. These qualitative data were analysed in the forms or linguistic realisations of meta-discourse features in COVID-19 news. The findings of this study will shed light on the meta-discourse features in COVID-19 news writing, particularly for writers to maintain the interest and involvement of readers in the news content. It also creates awareness for practitioners on the proper use of meta-discourse features to improve the expressiveness of language.

Keywords: Meta-discourse features, writers.

Abstract

EQualitative Survey on Factors Affecting First-Year Medical Students' Performance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, online education became the new norm. Since this new method of delivering the curriculum was unfamiliar to all parties involved, everyone was concerned that it had a damaging effect on students' performance. The first-year students were the most impacted, since they began medical school during the pandemic, just as classes were taken online. The effect of these new teaching and learning norms was never studied. In particular, what factors affected students' performance during those difficult times? To understand the factors affecting first-year medical students' academic performance during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study employed a phenomenological approach, focusing on the lived experiences of those directly impacted by the change in teaching and learning style during the pandemic. Study subjects included students and lecturers from a private medical school. Data were collected separately from lecturers and students using focus group discussions. Data collected were analysed thematically based on the objectives. 12 students and 7 lecturers were involved in 4 separate focus group discussions. The study's findings did not support the general view that students' academic performance had significantly deteriorated due to online education. Factors affecting students' performance during this period included personal, environmental, teaching method/faculty and social factors. Interestingly, most factors that contributed to poor performance such as poor motivation and discipline (personal factors), distraction in the form of gadgets (environmental factors) as well as poor support from peers (social factors) have been documented even before the outbreak of COVID-19. Students' academic performance did not drastically suffer due to the shift from face-to-face to online teaching and learning activities. However, it did aggravate factors impacting students' performance which had been well-known even before the pandemic.

Keywords: Medical students, academic performance, online education, COVID-19.

Abstract

Transformative Learning through Leisure International Tourism in the Post-pandemic Context

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Tourists have undergone a profound learning journey during the pandemic lockdown, where they prioritised safeguarding themselves from the COVID-19 virus. The subsequent reopening of international travel has sparked a transformative learning journey, requiring them to meticulously balance personal desires for leisure travel with safety concerns. This research seeks to understand the intricate learning process undertaken by tourists when planning international leisure trips, particularly considering the protective measures learned during the lockdown. Research is conducted through six focus group discussions with Malaysian tourists who have travelled internationally for leisure and who have not done so since the reopening of the borders. Transformative Learning Theory (TLT) serves as the foundational framework, enabling a comprehensive exploration of the tourists' learning experiences and their resulting outcomes. The findings of the research confirm that, Malaysian tourists who have previously travelled internationally have successfully embarked on and completed the transformative learning journey, while those who have yet to travel internationally are graded as 'drop-outs' in the context of TLT. Notably, the transformative learning journey within the realm of leisure tourism can be delineated into three main stages: the planning phase, the travel experience itself, and the post-travel period. The research has also illuminated that resilience is cultivated and enhanced through this learning process. This valuable insight carries significant implications for stakeholders within the tourism industry and policymakers grappling with the repercussions of the pandemic-induced lockdown. Tourism operators can effectively leverage this understanding by disseminating information that addresses health concerns, reassuring tourists about their safety and the possibility of contracting the virus in foreign countries (despite the distance from their home country). Policymakers are advised to work towards global standardization of operating procedures (SOP) while ensuring a smooth transition amid any changes in travel restrictions.

Keywords: Transformative learning, transformative learning theory, qualitative, resilience, COVID-19.

Abstract

Resilience in University Teachers during COVID-19 Pandemic: An Interpretative Phenomenological Perspective

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Resilience is a widely researched yet contentiously defined area of psychology. Despite extensive research exploring teacher resilience, it is less widely explored among university teachers. Research suggests that university teachers need resilience to manage challenges and stresses of the profession, especially during a global-scale disruption impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The psychological state of university teachers has been affected due to pandemic-related stress potentially leading to higher attrition rates, affecting students' well-being and impacting the academic continuity of higher education. To mitigate these consequences, it is important to explore ways to develop university teachers' resilience resources. This present study explores university teachers' lived experiences, their coping strategies that affect changes in their resilience and the contributing factors that promote resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic in EduCity Iskandar, Johor. This study adopts a phenomenological approach using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). With ten semi-structured interviews, this study explores individual experiences, coping mechanisms and factors that contribute to university teachers' resilience. The analysis of the interview data reveals four superordinate themes: 'insight on resilience', 'lived experiences', 'coping strategies' and 'commitment toward students. The discussion makes links between themes identified in the analysis, the study's research questions and existing literature. All participants demonstrate an understanding of resilience as a multi-dimensional and developmental process. The identified approach-based and avoidance coping strategies are used in supporting self and others. Factors that contribute to resilience are categorised into emotional, professional, motivational and social dimensions. The findings of this research emphasize the complex and dynamic nature of the participants' subjective experiences. This study outlines resilience in university teachers as an important area of research for educational professionals. The findings of the current study help to inform suggestions for future research and implications for professional practice.

Keywords: Teacher resilience, university teachers, phenomenological, COVID-19.

Abstract

Using Qualitative Photovoice Interviews to Discover the Role of Biophilia for Older Homeless Shelter Residents

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Access to green and blue environments and nature (biophilia) is highly inequitable in Canadian urban environments. Biophilia has also been shown to have significant beneficial impacts on the physical, mental, and social health of humans and, in particular, later life. Although the World Health Organization advanced the importance of human access to nature, lack of access to green spaces has been documented in low-income populations and few studies have examined the role of economically disadvantaged aging populations. This research study is based on a secondary qualitative analysis of the Aging in the Right Place (AIRP) study, which considers the intersection of age and economic disadvantage to understand the experiences and perceptions of AIRP in relationship to supportive housing for older homeless adults with experiences of homelessness to determine the nature of optimal housing to support this population. Drawing on the AIRP study, in this presentation we employ a secondary qualitative data analysis to examine the role of biophilia in the lives of older adult homelessness shelter residents. We conducted 25 in-depth semi-structured photovoice interviews with older adults (50+) with experiences of homelessness living at three supportive housing sites in Calgary, Canada. Through the thematic analysis of residents' stories and photography, as well as built environment assessments, we illuminated the impact of biophilia and biophilic design on AIRP for older persons with experience of homelessness across four thematic categories: (1) nature as providing a sense of peace or restoration; (2) reciprocity in human relationships with nature; (3) biophilia is important to aging well; and (4) operational impediments to biophilic design. Findings from this research inquiry illuminate the multiple ways in which biophilia and biophilic-design are necessary elements to be integrated into the environment of temporary supportive housing units and surrounding neighbourhood contexts to support multi-faceted wellness among this vulnerable population.

Keywords: Qualitative photovoice interviews, biophilia, older homeless adult, shelter design.

Abstract

Early Music Education Practices among Preschool Teachers in Shanxi, China - A Multiple Case Study

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Music education could improve children's thinking ability, and promote children's brain potential as well as their whole quality. It could build critical competencies and mindsets that can be transferred to other subject areas for young people. However, the significance of early music education needs to be addressed in the research setting, and the correct method to construct music education practices also needs to be emphasized. Therefore, it is urgent to highlight the right ways to improve teachers' music teaching practices in preschools. At last, children's overall quality will be promoted through music education learning. This study's approach is acquired mainly by pure qualitative research with multiple cases. The criterion sampling method will be adopted to recruit six preschool teachers as participants. The researcher explores how different teachers from two different kindergartens employ music practices among children and how the children react to those various music practices. Information will be gathered through document analysis, observation in music class, and interviews with participants. After analysis of all the findings, suggestions for early music education practices will be raised to recommend preschool teachers the better ways to teach music to young children. All in all, the holistic quality of children will be promoted through the enhancement of music education practices. The current study will provide some helpful knowledge and insight into the musical activities preschool instructors use to educate young children and how they may improve the effectiveness of the classroom to support young students' development of early musical skills. Additionally, it guides how to prepare preschool instructors for careers in early music education. Collaboration work between policymakers, school principals' guidance, teachers' instructions as well as parents' support is vital in developing children's musical abilities and other developments.

Keywords: Multiple case studies, early music education, practices, preschool teachers.

Abstract

Orthographic and Phonological Integration of Malay Words of the *Pantuns* in the *Dondang Sayang*

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Pantuns, a traditional form of oral Malay poetic form used to express intricate ideas and emotion, and Dondang Sayang, a musical and poetic art form, involving the singing of pantun, or four-line verses, are inseparable among the Baba and Nyonya communities in Melaka. It is known that Baba and Nyonya, the Peranakan Chinese in Melaka, fondly speak Baba Malay, which is a critically endangered language daily with less than 1,000 speakers in Malaysia. Interestingly, their pantuns were influenced by the Malay language due to acculturation with the Malay community but carried their spelling system according to their speaking and dialect. This qualitative study aims to 1) record the spelling system of Malay words found in the pantuns in the Dondang Sayang and 2) analyse the orthographic and phonological integration of the Malay words of the pantun in the Dondang Sayang. This study will analyse 50 pantuns chosen purposively through the book *Pantun Pilihan Baba Negeri Selat Negeri, 1910-1930* (Ming, 2004). The results of the study found that an acculturation process occurred in the Peranakan Baba society through the pantuns studied. The data obtained will be analysed using Faizal's (2009) - Orthographic and Phonological of Malay Language and Lee's (2022) - Baba Malay Grammar frameworks to record systematic orthographic and phonetic differences of Malay words found in the pantuns. The implications of the study will lead to the formation of the value of togetherness among the various races found in Malaysia using the Malay language. Furthermore, this study will systematically preserve the endangered community's culture to uphold the heritage of a unique acculturation of Baba and Nyonya with the Malay language via pantuns in Dondang Sayang to the younger generations.

Keywords: Orthographic integration, phonological integration, Malay words, pantun, Dondang Sayang.

Abstract

Presupposition triggers in Chinese phone scam conversations

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Criminals have exploited the widespread use of the telephone, especially internet voice call technology to commit crimes that cause individual distress and financial damage to victims. While many studies on deception and scams have identified macro rhetorical strategies that scammers use to deceive victims, finer-grained mechanisms that enable the scammer to achieve victims' compliance through expert use of language as the conversation unfolds have not been given attention. This paper highlights presupposition triggers in phone scam conversations in the context of China. The data of the study comprise a sample of 20 recordings of phone scam conversations between scammers and their targets selected from the official social media of the Chinese police and TV news. Employing the theoretical framework of Presupposition Theory by Yule (2016) and the classification of presupposition triggers by Levinson presupposition triggers in phone scam conversations are identified and explained. Analysis of the scam conversations is conducted qualitatively line by line to uncover presupposition triggers and victims' responses. The results demonstrate that out of thirteen presupposition triggers, as many as seven presupposition triggers exist in the scam conversations. Existential presupposition triggers are the most prevalent kind of presupposition triggers employed by scammers, primarily because they are effective tools for manipulating victims' emotions, creating a sense of inevitability, and engaging the victim in a conversation. In terms of the responses of victims that lead to the success or failure of the scam, structural presupposition triggers (question sentences) were used the most to cast doubt on the scammers' claims and assess the legitimacy of a situation or the intentions of the scammers. The findings which describe the patterns of language use involving the deployment of presupposition in voice call phone scams make such strategies by scammers more transparent and can contribute to efforts to raise public awareness in the hope of reducing the number of victims.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, phone scam, manipulative language, presupposition, triggers.

Abstract

Questioning Questioners: Interviewing Legal Professionals

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Legal professionals are often interviewed as experts in qualitative research conducted on legal reform. This research examines qualitative interviews conducted with legal experts. Experts who are legally trained are uniquely trained in the use of questions as questions in conversations carried out within a legal setting are circumscribed by legal rules and ethics. These laws govern the permissibility of the style and content of questioning in the conduct of examination-in-chiefs and cross-examinations of witnesses in the course of a civil or criminal court trial. Outside the courtroom, these laws continue to cast a shadow over conversations among legal practitioners and between legal practitioners and their clients. It is against this background that particular attention is paid to the interviewing of legal practitioners or professionals who have trained as legal practitioners. This research builds on pre-existing research on the theory and practical concerns of interviewing experts for the purpose of qualitative research. This research focusses specifically on the intricacies of framing questions directed to legal practitioners in the light of their pre-existing training on methods of questioning that includes awareness of the concepts of leading questions and over-sympathetic responses by a questioner. In this research, analysis is conducted on the transcripts of 10 structured oral and written qualitative interviews conducted by the first author with members of the legal profession consisting of both academics and legal practitioners on a specific legal reform. The interview questions were inspired by the United Kingdom Law Commission's questions on a similar legal issue. This research highlights the sensitivities associated with qualitative interviews with legal professionals from a theoretical perspective. The research also demonstrates from a practical perspective that the use of non-leading questions and the withholding of strong sympathetic solidarity of opinion when interviewing legal professionals can yield sufficient data to evaluate a legal reform.

Keywords: Qualitative interviews, legal professionals, leading questions, legal reform.

Abstract

The Perception and Acceptability of Human Papillomavirus DNA Self-Sampling Test: A Qualitative Study

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The introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA self-sampling test, which offers more advantages than the Pap smear test, can increase the cervical cancer screening rate uptake around the world. In Malaysia, the HPV DNA self-sampling test has been included in the national cervical cancer screening program since 2019, which has received mixed feedback. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to explore the perception and acceptance of the HPV self-sampling test among Malaysian women. We conducted in-depth interviews in this qualitative study. The participants were women who had undergone HPV self-sampling tests in government health clinics in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, and they also had a prior history of doing Pap smear tests. We utilized the maximum variation sampling method until the information became saturated. Data was analysed using thematic analysis with ATLAS.ti 23 software. A total of ten respondents with diverse backgrounds were interviewed. All reported that they had a positive perception of the HPV DNA self-sampling test. By applying thematic analysis, four themes and 14 subthemes were found. These themes included good healthcare provision, self-knowledge, awareness, and practices that may influence respondents' opinions, test-related perspectives, and decent social support systems. Health system elements such as access and proximity to care, staff competency and health promotion, were repeatedly mentioned by study participants. For reasons of confidentiality, privacy, ease, and practicality, the most favoured self-collection. It also removes embarrassment and is less invasive. The study found that good social support systems of peers and partners are crucial to respondents' perceptions of the test. In general, the HPV DNA self-sampling test appeared to suit the demands of Malaysian women as an acceptable screening method. These findings suggest an opportunity to increase attendance of cervical cancer screening nationwide.

Keywords: Human papillomavirus, HPV, self-sampling, acceptance, qualitative.

Abstract

Piloting an approach to agenda structure in student-led meetings within various programmes in Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed)

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Student-led meetings provide valuable opportunities for students to discuss pertinent aspects of the academic journey and overall university experience. More importantly, student-led meeting outcomes greatly influence future directions of teaching delivery and the university's response to student needs and aspirations. Equipping students with the skills to influence meeting structure and facilitate the meeting process will contribute widely to the overall goal of student representation. This study explores participants' responses to the meeting dynamics upon the implementation of inquiry-structured agenda topics in student feedback meetings as a tool for leadership skills development. The study aims to look at the impact of reframing agenda items as questions on meeting effectiveness, participant engagement, and satisfaction in the various programmes within the university. Student representatives are provided with a briefing regarding agenda question statements and allowed to independently reframe the agenda and conduct the meeting process at their own discretion. Participants' views were collected through a validated questionnaire. Initial findings suggest that reframing agenda items into question-based statements contributes favourably to meeting structure and group cohesion and helps the facilitation process. Similar observations were made between separate events and among student groups from distinct programmes of study. Some developmental needs have been identified which were how to improve active participation and commitment among meeting participants which will be explored through focused-group discussion and thematic analysis of meeting minutes. Generally, this study shed light on training needs for student leaders for effective communication, structuring tactics during meetings, productive discussion; as well as practices reflected in documented meeting minutes. All of which serve as transferrable skills in the future careers and endeavours of our young leaders.

Keywords: Meeting agenda, meeting structure, student feedback, student-led, student representatives, training development.

Abstract

Lived Experiences of Discipleship among Malaysian Christians in the Collectivistic Culture

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To Christians in general, the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20) is a serious mandate. With this, different models of discipleship are established in various parts of the world, each uniquely shaped by the contexts from where they emerged. Noting the importance of cultural context, this study aims to investigate the lived experiences of discipleship among Malaysian Christians (protestants minorities, i.e., Chinese, Indian, and Aborigines), considering the Malaysian context as a shame-based collectivist community and conscious of social hierarchy. Through a qualitative study that utilises the constructivism approach, the researcher interviewed 15 participants aged between 20 to 57; 10 Chinese, 3 Indians, 1 Iban, 1 Dusun Kadazan in the period of January to May 2023, followed by Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis as the methodology to analyse the experiences and perception of discipleship making. The findings in this study indicate that there are universal principles and culturally variable factors that need to be considered in disciple-making among Malaysian communities. The universal principles include: 1) Commitment to the discipleship community, 2) Accountability between the disciples and disciple, 3) Scriptural knowledge, 4) Experiencing God's love, 5) The work of the Holy Spirit, and 6) Importance of trust element among the discipleship community. The cultural variabilities include: 1) Motivation to avail oneself to make disciples, 2) Strategies to manage the negative effects of tackling shame-based elements and consciousness of social hierarchy among the discipleship community, and 3) Social comparisons between different ethnicities in the Malaysian context. It is hoped that by investigating both the shame-based element and the consciousness of social hierarchy element in the Malaysian context, the findings in this study might contribute to the literature on multicultural discipleship.

Keywords: Discipleship, multicultural, shame-based, collectivistic community, social hierarchy.

Abstract

Analysis of Sources and Channels of Disinformation Reported by Electronic Newspapers in Malaysia

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Disinformation is viewed as an intractable social problem. In Malaysia, a total of 260 disinformation cases were recorded as of September 2020. This situation needs urgent attention to curtail the spread of disinformation and its impact on society. Despite important steps taken by the government to guarantee people's access to accurate and trusted information, the formation and sharing of disinformation continue to occur. Additionally, research into the sources and channels of disinformation is either lacking or inadequate, particularly in the Malaysian context. Therefore, using the sociotechnical model of media effects, this research sought to explore the agents and channels through which disinformation spreads in Malaysia. The sociotechnical model of media effects explains how social and technological factors interact to shape the use of information channels by individuals and society. In the current research, a total of 48 news articles directly related to disinformation cases were subjected to qualitative content analysis. The articles were gathered from the digital archives of the three most widely read Malaysian English newspapers: The Star, Malay Mail, and New Straits Times. The findings reveal that individuals from various professions are identified as agents of disinformation in the reported cases. The agents are more likely to be identified by their professions rather than age or gender. For channels of disinformation, Facebook represents the dominant theme, followed by WhatsApp, Twitter, and websites. These outcomes suggest that individuals from varied professions rather than groups or organizations are involved in spreading disinformation across different channels. It is envisaged that this study could provide valuable insights for policymakers, media organizations, and the government to curtail the phenomenon of disinformation.

Keywords: Disinformation, sociotechnical model, media effects, digital newspapers.

Abstract

Motivations and Implications of Higher Education Students Engaging in Sustainability Initiatives: A Beach-Cleaning Project

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Students' engagement in sustainable initiatives is seen as a platform that potentially develops and expands students' transferable and academic-related skills. These initiatives provide the medium for long-term team learning where it focuses on an individual's social, cultural, ethical, economic, and environmental dimensions. The focus of this study is to investigate the motivational factors and the implications of higher education students' participation in sustainability initiatives. A group of students aged 18 - 23 years old from a local institution organised a day trip beach cleaning project at a beach in Johor Bahru. Forty-four (44) participants were involved, thirty-seven (37) were local students while seven (7) were international students. A mixed-method approach was conducted, and all the participants were required to answer survey questions. Five (5) participants were then invited for an hour-long focus group interview exploring the reasons and experiences of engaging in the beach cleaning project. The responses from the interview were transcribed verbatim and then thematically analysed. Three main themes emerged which are: (1) Social and Environmental Awareness, (2) New Perspectives in The Act of Volunteering, and (3) Development in Transferable Skills. The findings of this study highlight that the beach cleaning project significantly motivates higher education students to participate voluntarily due to the awareness of the ecosystem, the act of social responsibility, and the importance of engaging with these types of initiatives to benefit one's future career. Educational institutions are encouraged to plan more initiatives that target the development of students in social and soft skills, particularly upon planning, specific and creative initiatives should be prioritised to achieve specific goals related to personal development and sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainability initiatives, student, motivations, beach-cleaning.

Abstract

Exploring the Potential Roles of Food Videos on TikTok to Develop Culinary Destination Image in Changsha City, China

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Food has become an important tool for a city to attract tourists. Social media has changed from being a communication tool to a new way of life. The use of social media in the tourism industry to attract tourists to a destination has become a global trend. Using social media platforms to promote destinations is an issue that will be explored. Presently, TikTok is the largest short video social platform in China. This research will be conducted in Changsha City, China, which has been selected as both the “International Capital of Gastronomy” and “Media Arts Capital”. The aims of this study are to explore what features/content that will make food videos in Changsha eye-catching, the role of food videos on user’s comments and their influence on the formation of destination impressions in Changsha. There are four research questions developed in this study: 1. What are the main contents of food videos on TikTok? 2. Exploring the features of food videos on TikTok that will attract tourist attention. 3. How do food videos on social media platforms influence the User Generated content? 4. Explore the role of food videos on TikTok in developing and spreading the images of food tourism destinations. A qualitative method will be applied in this research, the philosophical worldview will be an interpretive paradigm. The data will be primarily gathered through content analysis, in-depth interviews, and participant observation. The participants will be domestic tourists who are traveling to Changsha, restaurateurs, and members of the Tourism Industry Management Organization. This study provides theoretical support and practical guidance for urban management organizations in other cities to use social media platforms to promote urban tourism and increase urban tourism revenues.

Keywords: Food tourism, destination image, food video, social media.

Abstract

Flourishing Through Work Intensification: A Qualitative Inquiry into the Lived Experiences of Academic Staff in Public Research Universities in Malaysia

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This study concerns the need to better understand the complexities of work intensification and how workers flourish through it. Overworking has been overly focused on work hours, with little attention on work intensification despite work effort comprising both aspects. Much evidence shows that work has intensified, including in the academic arena. With work intensification, the experiences of academic staff who do not follow rigid work hours can be undervalued. While existing studies have not focused on the non-work domain, work intensification may make work and life worse off in an already blurred work and non-work domains. Moreover, existing studies are deepening the narratives that all negative effects are to be solved externally. This phenomenologically informed, in-depth study delves into the lived experiences of how academic staff flourish through work intensification. This complements the over-reliance on external intervention to resolve the negative effects of work intensification. This study drew mainly on Affective Events Theory (AET) and Spillover Theory as a theoretical lens for how it acknowledges the complicated dynamics of individual work intensification and flourishing experiences. An expert panel of three (3) members was invited to improve the interview protocol. Then, a pilot study was conducted, exploring the lived experiences of six (6) participants. The participants hold academic ranks of senior lecturer, associate professor, and professor from public research universities in Malaysia. Actual data collection will comprise thirty (30) participants, happening thrice with intervals of two months. Data will be analysed using the latest NVivo software. Overall, this study contributes to the existing literature on work intensification and its intricate interplay with workers' overall well-being, with a particular focus on how these dynamics manifest in the context of academic staff in public research universities in Malaysia.

Keywords: Work intensity, flourishing, work-life, employee well-being, phenomenology.

Abstract

Investigation into Educational Content in Developing an Interactive Multimedia-based Application for Type II Diabetes Mellitus Patients

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The development of interactive multimedia-based applications has become increasingly important in providing adequate and effective health education to Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) patients. Understanding the educational content required for such applications is crucial for designing a user-friendly and impactful tool for T2DM management. This study aims to investigate the educational content necessary for developing an interactive multimedia-based application tailored explicitly for T2DM patients. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted face-to-face with sixteen (6) T2DM outpatients at a tertiary referral university hospital in Kuala Lumpur between October 2022 and January 2023. Each interview lasted approximately one hour. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and then subjected to thematic analysis. The majority of participants had been diagnosed with T2DM for less than ten years, while a few were less. The thematic analysis identified several key aspects related to the educational content required for the multimedia-based application. These include a preference for educational material, essential content and interactive features. They proposed a discussion area that would allow them to communicate and receive immediate advice from healthcare professionals, thus eliminating the need for frequent hospital visits. The findings of this study highlight the significance of interactive multimedia-based applications in providing health education for T2DM patients. The identified essential content areas, such as insulin dose modification, hypoglycaemia management, and dietary recommendations, can inform the development of effective educational materials. The app developers should also include doctors, pharmacists, nutritionists, and psychologists who are experts in their fields to add more behavioural modification techniques in applications that assist patients.

Keywords: Educational material, diabetes mellitus, multimedia applications, health education, patient communication.

Abstract

A Qualitative Method for Critical Narrative Research

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Bringing together elements of Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) and Narrative Analysis “in a mutually beneficial partnership that addresses both theoretical and methodological dilemmas in discourse analysis”, Critical Narrative Research (CNR) combines macro and micro-level analyses of the stories our lives are defined by. While calls for a critical approach to narratives have been answered, there remain to be clearly defined parameters or suggested methodological tools for analysing narratives critically. Informed by CDS traditions, narratives are conceptualized as being constituted by power structures and as constituting them. This presentation addresses key concerns for developing a CNR by illustrating the pillars that support it and introducing a systematic method for doing CNR. By centering stories told at all levels of society, CNR acknowledges narrators “as the site and evidence of agency”. However, analysis that moves back and forth between the micro-level of the story and the macro-level of social and institutional discourses prevents us from being reduced to completely free-willed agents who are not bound by the discourses we have access to, allowing us to be understood as neither completely controlled nor defined by structure nor as completely free from pre-existing structures. The method is applied to semi-structured interviews conducted with people who experienced rape, demonstrating how narrators construct their subjectivities and weave together macro discourses to tell sexual violence stories. How do we position ourselves and others as we recount life stories? Do institutional discourses make their way into these stories? How do we weave them together to make sense of our lives? And how does CNR help us answer these questions?

Keywords: Critical narrative research; narrative analysis; critical discourse studies; narrative interview.

Abstract

Call Me GBA Brothers: The Evolution of a Political Neologism through Reality Television and Social Media

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This study investigates the evolution and implications of the "Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macau Greater Bay Area" (GBA) initiative introduced by the Chinese government in 2015, focusing on its discourse in popular culture. Despite being officially introduced, the term "GBA" gained prominence only after the broadcast of the mainland Chinese reality show "Call Me By Fire" in 2021. Produced by Mango TV, a media company under the state-owned Hunan Broadcasting System, the show quickly garnered attention on China's Sina Weibo social media platform, resulting in its widespread adoption by users. Notably, the show prominently featured a group of Hong Kong male celebrities known as the "GBA brothers," who became the focal point of public interest. By employing critical discourse analysis to examine the posts on Sina Weibo, this research investigates the usage and significance of the term within Mainland China, examining how provincial broadcasting institutions, local government tourism departments, and prominent Chinese IT giants collaborate to influence ordinary media users, including reality TV show audiences and social media users, aligning with the political agenda of the Chinese central government through entertainment and popular culture. Furthermore, the study aims to unravel the paradox surrounding the term's popularity. Initially intended to facilitate Hong Kong's integration with mainland China in economic, social, and political aspects, the analysis of social media users' posts reveals a different motivation. Their affinity for the "GBA brothers" stems from their recognition and appreciation of Hong Kong's unique cultural identity, rooted in the Cantonese language, Hong Kong pop music, and genre movies of the 1990s. This paradox highlights the complex dynamics involved in integrating distinct cultural and regional entities, shedding light on how popular culture from specific moments intertwines and clashes with new popular culture due to the diverse ideologies they represents.

Keywords: Greater Bay Area, popular culture, discourse, reality television, social media.

Abstract

Green Tourism Practices in the Hospitality Industry: A Study of Mid to Luxury Hotels

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Despite the increasing global awareness of sustainable practices, the hospitality industry continues to face challenges related to the effective management of natural resources. These critical issues demand further investigation to address the environmental concerns associated with the sector. While existing research in the hospitality industry has predominantly focused on various aspects of sustainable practices, this study aims to bridge the research gap by exploring hotel providers' green tourism practices and their impact on sustainable urban tourism. Focused on mid to luxury hotels, this research shed light on green practices capable of mitigating the ecological footprint of the hospitality industry. Employing a qualitative approach, we delve into the implementation of sustainable urban tourism practices by hotel providers. We conducted in-depth interviews with eight senior executives from premium hotel brands to explore the sustainable practices in their establishments. The study's findings confirm the multifaceted impacts of green marketing practices, specifically in three dimensions: socio-cultural, economic, and environmental aspects. Participants associate green tourism marketing practices with environmental preservation and prioritize compliance with relevant authorities. Hotels are actively engaged in minimising energy consumption, reducing food waste, and creating green surroundings. These initiatives are primarily focused on execution and adherence to principles and guidelines to benefit from tax incentives. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that consumer awareness of green consumption varies among guests, with some showing less concern for environmental issues. While hotels have implemented initiatives and provided essential information, there is a notable lack of emphasis on engaging with guests and stakeholders regarding these practices. To bolster environmental preservation hotels should not merely adopt green practices but engage stakeholders. A holistic approach involving guests and stakeholders in sustainable initiatives can enhance hotels' role in environmental conservation while delivering a memorable, responsible travel experience.

Keywords: Sustainable marketing, green practices, urban tourism, hospitality.

Abstract

Reflection on applying semi-structured interview in a Delphi First Round

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The semi-structured interview is a qualitative technique in which information is obtained from respondents by evoking their opinions on a certain subject through both open and close-ended questions. Meanwhile, Delphi is the technique where consensus is reached through respondents' feedback in multiple rounds. Semi-structured interviews are traditionally treated as the initial point of study for Delphi research where the information obtained is used to construct the Delphi first round instrument. However, the aim of our study was instead to incorporate semi-structured interviews into the Delphi first-round instrument. The researchers did this by applying the information obtained from the literature as the close-ended question portion of the semi-structured interview. The close-ended questions were separated and labelled according to their respective categories and classes. The respondents were given this instrument and were allotted two weeks to finish this portion of the instrument. At the same time, the second portion of the instrument which consisted of open-ended questions that had asked the respondents to elaborate regarding the categories asked in the first portion was also given. After two weeks, the respondents were visited again to return the close-ended portion of the instrument and to have a discussion for the open-ended questions. The results of doing this were that the respondents already had ideas on how to answer the open-ended questions and had given an elaboration on how the categories presented affect each other along with what close-ended questions they think are relevant. However, it had limited some answers from the respondents which required the interviewer to elicit deeper responses from respondents. Incorporating semi-structured interviews into a Delphi first round is something that qualitative researchers could explore although it may come with a different set of challenges than normal, it also comes with its benefits.

Keywords: Semi-structured interview, qualitative interview, Delphi method, Delphi technique.

Abstract

Exploring the Emotions of EFL Learners: A Multiple Case Study in a Higher Vocational College in Yiwu, China

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English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners are individuals who are studying and using the English language in a non-English-speaking environment or country. Emotions play a crucial role in how and why students learn. Literature on second language (L2) learning has focused more on cognitive processes. There is very limited attention paid to emotions in second language acquisition (SLA) research except for anxiety. However, teaching and learning a L2 are both emotionally charged activities. Recently, there has been a growing interest in gaining a better understanding of the emotions of L2 learners and teachers. Whether in a face-to-face or online environment, the emotional states of learners and teachers can influence one another. Therefore, understanding what influences emotions in learning contexts, how to optimise positive emotional states and minimise the experience of unhelpful emotions can assist students to engage with their learning experience and enhance their learning outcomes. This study aims to explore the emotions of EFL learners in a Chinese higher vocational college, their reasons, and their impact on teaching and learning. The participants of the qualitative study will be multiple cases aging from 18 to 21. The intermediate and low English achievers will be chosen based on their English scores in the College Entrance Exam and their disposition towards introversion as assessed by the BIG FIVE INVENTORY. Various data collection strategies will be employed, including a written task of language learning histories, semi-structured interviews, and classroom observations for one semester. Coding will be guided by the research questions and data-driven in NVivo using thematic analysis. When educators understand the role that emotions play in learning and teaching, educators can design more effective learning experiences. The study may provide insights into emotions in SLA, assisting educators in adapting their pedagogical approaches to improve students' achievements and well-being.

Keywords: Emotions, higher vocational college, EFL learners, multiple case study, language learning experiences.

Abstract

Community Adoption of A Low-Carbon Lifestyle Program In Kuala Lumpur

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The adoption of low-carbon lifestyle activities by communities is one of the most crucial things to prevent climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable cities need the community to understand and promote environmentally sustainable practices. Public participation is crucial in ensuring that sustainable goals in cities are met. The aim of this study is to explore the adoption of low-carbon activities that contribute to behavioural changes by the communities and make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change. This will increase understanding among community members, which plays an essential role in achieving a low-carbon lifestyle by exploring their daily routines in adapting and applying green practices. Four sustainable development goals are explored, namely SDG 4: Quality education; SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable; SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change; and SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals. The theory of planned behaviour will be highlighted in relation to the impact of attitude and willingness on people's behaviour, with subjective norms and perceived behavioural control that may have a direct influence on the actual behavioural control. A total of eleven (11) informants, mostly the chairman and committee members of the community and actively involved in Local Agenda 21 Kuala Lumpur (LA21KL) were selected as study participants. A semi-structured interview using the phenomenological research method was utilised. The NVivo R1.7.1 software was used to analyse the data. Four themes were identified, namely Developing Leaders Through Mentoring, Striving Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Enhancing Urban Farming and Recycling Programs, and Economic Sustainability Development. The focus of the study is on Developing Leaders Through Mentoring to empower the community by increasing visibility through awareness, education, and the economy to enhance low-carbon lifestyle programmes. The ultimate aim is for Kuala Lumpur to be a low-carbon city by 2030 and meet its carbon-neutral target by 2050.

Keywords: Low carbon lifestyle, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), public participation, community awareness, developing leaders through mentoring

Abstract

Using document phenomenology to investigate academic failure among first-year Malaysian medical students

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Academic failure is common among medical schools around the world. However, little is known about the actual process that led to academic failure. Understanding this issue may help break the vicious cycle of academic failure. Consequently, this study investigated the underlying process that contributes to academic failure in first-year medical students in Malaysia. This study used a document phenomenological technique, which is a methodical way to look at the documents, analyse them to gain understanding and develop empirical knowledge of them. Interview transcripts and reflective essays from 16 first-year medical students who struggled academically were analysed using document analysis. Codes were created based on this study, which were then further broken down into categories and themes. In order to make sense of the sequence of events leading to academic failure, thirty categories in eight themes were connected. During the academic year, one or more critical incidents started, and they may have resulted in possible resulting events. The students had poor attitudes, ineffective learning methods, health issues, or stress. As they advanced to mid-year assessments, students responded differently to their assessment results. The students tried similar and/or different approaches afterward, but they still failed the end-of-year assessments. The general process of academic failure is illustrated in a diagram describing chronological events. Academic failure may be explained by a chain of events (and their consequences), including what the students experience, what they do, and how they react. Preventing a preceding event may prevent first-year medical students from suffering these consequences.

Keywords: Academic failure, first-year medical students, qualitative study, document phenomenology, medical education.

Abstract

Into the Unknown: Do Preschool Teachers Know the ABC of CEFR?

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The adoption of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in the English language education reform in Malaysia led to the revision of the English language curriculum from preschool to the post-secondary level. The implementation of CEFR-Aligned National Preschool Standards-Based Curriculum (NPSC) plays a crucial role in providing meaningful language learning experiences for preschool pupils. Some CEFR-related studies focus on the implementation of CEFR and its relation to teaching and learning and they are conducted mostly at primary and secondary school level. There is surprisingly little research or literature on the implementation of CEFR specifically in the preschool English Language Teaching (ELT) context. In addition, low levels of English proficiency and lack of confidence in using the language among preschool teachers have been linked to the issue of whether preschool teachers are able to carry out CEFR-aligned language lessons effectively. The issue of having to alternate between languages in using English as an instructional language has also been challenging for preschool teachers. This research elucidates the implementation processes of CEFR-Aligned NPSC in ELT. Data were collected through in-depth interview sessions with six preschool teachers who were selected based on purposive sampling. Document analysis of lesson plans and CEFR-aligned learning materials corroborated the findings of the in-depth interviews. The findings revealed five significant emerging themes mainly Adherence to CEFR-Aligned NPSC, Utilisation of Various Language Activities and Resources, Lessons Implementation for Different Groups of Preschool Pupils, Differentiation in the Preschool Classroom and Assessment in the Preschool Classroom. In conclusion, the implementation of CEFR-Aligned NPSC is indeed a way forward towards developing preschool pupils' communicative competence in the English language. It is recommended that further studies on the implementation of CEFR in the preschool ELT context are conducted to gain a deeper understanding of preschool English language curriculum development.

Keywords: Implementation, CEFR, English language, curriculum, preschool education.

Abstract

From Isolation to Empowerment: A Qualitative Exploration of Maternal Postpartum Depression Experiences and their MHealth Needs for Postpartum Mental Health Care

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Malaysia's 2023 National Health Morbidity Survey reported that 11.2% of mothers experienced postpartum depression (PPD), with 90% unaware of their condition. Barriers such as stigma, privacy concerns, logistical challenges, and a shortage of mental health professionals hinder mothers' access to optimal mental care. MHealth technology, using mobile and other wireless technology, offers a promising solution to maternal mental healthcare. This study aimed to explore the healthcare experiences of mothers with PPD symptoms during postpartum period and their perspectives on using mHealth technology to improve mental healthcare accessibility. In-depth interviews were conducted with six eligible mothers recruited from the psychiatric clinic of a government hospital. The interviews were transcribed verbatim and data was thematically analysed. Five major themes emerged from this study: i. existing circumstances, ii. Psychosociological changes, iii. mother's needs, iv. innovation of care, and v. pragmatic elements of mHealth. The study highlights how mothers bear a heavy emotional burden alone while striving to meet societal and cultural expectations, leading to neglect of self-care and the normalization of PPD during the postpartum period. Respondents emphasized the importance of culturally tailored mHealth solutions that are sensitive to language preferences, incorporate religious or spiritual practices like zikir and provide remote and easily accessible support, especially during the strict confinement period and cultural practices. Key mHealth resources required include timely PPD education, professional-guided self-care, cognitive restructuring that considers cultural expectations of motherhood, coping strategies, validation of infant feeding choices, and fostering partner involvement, transcending cultural norms. Desired mHealth features included automatic notifications, reminders and event documentation. These five major themes illuminate the complexity of challenges faced by these mothers in accessing mental healthcare services and underscore the potential of mHealth solutions, offering practical elements and professionally guided remote support during the confinement period. Further interventional studies with mHealth solutions are beneficial for the mental well-being of Malaysian mothers during the postpartum period.

Keywords: Postpartum depression, mental health support, confinement, experiences, mHealth needs, digital needs, access to care.

Abstract

An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Help-Seeking Behaviours among First Generation College Students: Understanding Challenges and Pathways to Success

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First-generation college students (FGCS) represent a unique subset within the university environment. Their experiences of academic help-seeking and academic success often diverge from those of their peers. They encounter distinct challenges in their educational journey, and how they seek academic help is paramount to their success. Although considerable research has explored FGCS's academic journey, there remains a limited understanding of the intricate dynamics of their academic help-seeking behaviours and their pathway to college success. The current study aims to investigate (a) how first-generation students experience help-seeking behaviour and (b) what are the challenges faced by them when seeking help. In-depth interviews were conducted to understand the help-seeking viewpoints of 20 students at a Chinese university. These sessions spanned 60 to 90 minutes each and the gathered data was examined using interpretative phenomenological analysis. The findings indicate that these students typically seek help from peers, friends, instructors, relatives, and paid professionals, with their choices influenced by factors like the issue's complexity, emotional ease, and resource availability. Success in help-seeking is evaluated based on the efficacy of solutions and the quality of interactions. Barriers to help-seeking stem from internal emotional hurdles and external difficulties in finding help. When initial help-seeking does not yield the desired results, students refine their methods for better subsequent outcomes. This investigation shines light on the help-seeking practices of students. Universities could provide targeted resources and support to help FGCS navigate the academic system and find mentors. This could include academic advising, tutoring, and mentoring programs that are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of FGCS. Future studies could explore the role of technology in facilitating help-seeking behaviours among FGCS and investigate the long-term outcomes of successful help-seeking behaviours, such as academic achievement, career success, and social mobility.

Keywords: Academic help-seeking, first-generation college students, interpretative phenomenological analysis.

Abstract

Experiences of caregivers in deaddiction centres in Western Maharashtra, India

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Engaging in caregiving can be incredibly gratifying for caregivers, but it can also lead to unfavourable outcomes and impose physical and psychological burdens on caregivers. With limited research on the experiences and difficulties encountered by caregivers in de-addiction centres, this study primarily aims to explore de-addiction caregiver's experiences and challenges. A qualitative study design with a phenomenological research method was adopted. An in-depth interview was conducted in August 2023. at the premises of the deaddiction centres where caregivers were employed. Data was collected by conducting semi-structured interviews in English and Hindi with caregivers' interviews audio recorded. The interview results were thematically analysed. Out of 10 caregivers interviewed, 7 were males and 3 were females each representing various professions such as administrators, nursing staff, and counsellors and helpers. The majority of the caregivers in this study treated alcohol dependents and family members of alcohol dependents. The findings revealed that most caregivers found their work fulfilling and self-satisfying as they helped patients overcome addiction. However, many caregivers faced financial challenges due to inadequate funding, resulting in insufficient salaries and longer working hours that led to sleep deprivation and affected their physical and mental health. In spite of the challenges faced, the study also found that caregivers received unwavering support and appreciation from patients' families and coworkers. It is essential to acknowledge the contributions of caregivers to their well-being. The community has a shared responsibility to provide caregivers with emotional support, recognition, appreciation, and employer support. These gestures can make a substantial difference in the lives of caregivers and enhance the quality of care they offer to patients.

Keywords: Caregivers, deaddiction centre, experience, challenges, support.

Abstract

Enhancing Income Generation Through Domestic Repeat Visitors' Savouring Experience at Homestay Programme In Malaysia

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The tourism industry is the third-largest contributor to Malaysia's gross domestic product (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2023). The Malaysia Homestay Experience Programme (MHEP) is a community-based tourism that focusses on the kampung (traditional village/rural settlement) lifestyle and experience highlighting its cultural and economic activities. Literature suggests with extended pleasurable and enjoyable travel experiences, visitors possess a place attachment to a destination which will make them revisit and may further display behaviour that could assist the destination in income generation. Hence, the primary aim of this study is to unravel the complex relationship between savouring experiences of domestic repeat visitors and their potential contribution to enhancing income generation for homestay operators. To achieve this, the study will adopt a narrative inquiry approach, leveraging semi-structured interviews to deeply probe the experiences of visitors in the MHEP. Through a purposive sampling method, the focus will be on local Malaysians and expatriates with a minimum of five years' residence in Malaysia, and a history of participation in the MHEP more than once within the country. The collected data will undergo analysis utilising ATLAS.ti 23, a qualitative data analysis software, ensuring a rigorous and thorough examination of the data. To enhance the trustworthiness of this study, an audit trail, reflexive practices, a triangulation of data types and prolonged engagement will be employed. This study will contribute to the understanding of domestic repeat visitors' experiences of Malaysian homestays and offer valuable insights for homestay operators, policymakers, and tourism planners. This study seeks to contribute to Place studies and homestay domestic repeat visitor tendency to support income generation for MHEP operators and subsequently promote the long-term viability of these homestay programmes, leading to facilitating economic growth.

Keywords: Savouring, place attachment, homestay programmes, community-based tourism, domestic tourist, repeat visitor, income generation.

Abstract

A Job Demands-Resources (JDR) model for working-from-home: Malaysian Female Workers' Experiences

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The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a rapid shift from office-based work (WFO) to working from home (WFH), introducing significant differences in job attributes and environments, leading to unique challenges. The Job Demands-Resources (JDR) model, developed before WFH became mainstream, may not fully encompass WFH experiences and their impact on well-being. This study explores WFH challenges and their characteristics among female Malaysian workers, proposing their integration into the JDR model. Moreover, this study presents narrative testimony, shedding light on the experiences of female workers in a collectivist community characterised by its strong gender role expectations and societal demands. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 16 female Malaysian workers aged 26-55 years old during the COVID-19 pandemic. Employing a methodical deductive thematic analysis, the dataset yielded 74 codes and 30 themes, encompassing job demands, resources, home environments, and familial support. Four central WFH challenges emerged: (a) attending to family needs, (b) non-conducive home-work environments, (c) acquiring new skills, and (d) unproductive exchange with supervisors, colleagues, and vendors/clients. These challenges are inherently shaped by three characteristics namely, (i) familial responsibilities, (ii) home infrastructure, and (iii) individual self-discipline. Importantly, they affect workers' well-being. Furthermore, our findings serve to affirm the association between a suboptimal WFH environment and the adverse impact on well-being among the study's participants. Consequently, this study supports for the imperative inclusion of familial responsibilities and home environments within the purview of the JDR model, recognising their pivotal roles as factors of workers' overall well-being. Excessive familial responsibilities and unsuitable home-work environments can act as job demands, leading to work-related stress, especially within the backdrop of a collectivist culture. Conversely, strong familial support and conducive home environments facilitate productive WFH experiences. Incorporating these findings into the JDR model can enhance its relevance in the contemporary WFH era.

Keywords: Work-from-home, women, Malaysian, JDR.

Abstract

Authentic Leadership Practices in Education: A Meta-synthesis

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Authentic leadership research in education received notable attention during the past two decades. Additionally, qualitative studies provided a wide range of themes on authentic leadership with an in-depth analysis of the processes and dynamics of authentic leadership in education. It is important to note that most of the studies on authentic leadership have focused on the theory rather than authentic leadership practices. Hence, this paper aims to review and synthesise the findings of qualitative studies related to authentic leadership in educational research. The main objective of the review is to explore authentic leadership practices in the context of education. Employing a systematic protocol, the literature search was conducted using two databases. After screening using inclusion and exclusion criteria, a total of 15 publications were considered for the qualitative analysis. A thematic analysis was employed in the analysis. The findings revealed that practices of authentic leadership in education can be explained under the themes; of self and social awareness, relational transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and model behaviour. One of the key practices in authentic leadership among educational leaders is self-reflection. Findings also indicated that personal involvement, democratic engagement and dedication of school leaders are highly valued practices in authentic leadership. Additionally, authenticity and values lie at the centre of authentic leadership practices. Thus, authentic leadership practices are considered value-driven leadership. The findings of the study revealed contextual challenges educational leaders face when practicing authentic leadership. This study recommends significant implications for school leaders, policy makers and training institutions who engage in leadership development of educational leaders. The findings provide important authentic leadership practices that can be incorporated into leadership development programmes of school principals. Educational leaders need unique leadership practices to address contemporary issues in uncertain and ever-changing educational contexts.

Keywords: Authentic leadership, leadership practices, authenticity, self-awareness, value-driven.

Abstract

Toxic Work Condition and Effect of Mental health in Malaysia: Evidence from Patients and Caretakers

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The workplace can be the cause of mental health problems as working people spend a major part of their lives at the workplace. A toxic workplace environment can also be the triggering factor for further aggravation of mental health problems. On the contrary, the workplace, being the place where working people spend a considerable amount of time, is also the most ideal place to implement strategies and introduce intervention measures to the employees. On that basis, countries like Australia and the United Kingdom, have imposed a duty on employers to ensure that their workplace is free from psychosocial risks. The imposition of such duty is based on the premise that a toxic work environment is akin to physical hazards that need to be avoided in occupational safety laws. The statutory duty of care also bypasses the need to prove the 'duty of care' required in a typical negligence case. This article commences with an exposition on the duty of care owed by an employer to an employee in Malaysia. Since Malaysia does not have specific laws addressing issues related to psychosocial hazards at the workplace, a study was conducted at a semi-private hospital in Malaysia on selected few patients with mental health issues, their caregivers and employers to explore evidence to support the psychosocial hazards identified in the Australian legislation. The multiple views gathered from in-depth interviews were systematically coded to triangulate findings across the study. The thematic findings were then observed against the Australian legislation. The finding shows there is an urgent need for such legislation and policy to be enacted to protect employees from psychosocial hazards and facilitate the process of recovery among employees with mental health issues.

Keywords: Mental health, psychosocial hazards, employees, workplace environment, duty of care.

Abstract

Reflexivity: Doing Qualitative Research as Individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

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In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on inclusivity in qualitative research practice in terms of neurodivergence, not just among research subjects but also in research teams. Neurodivergent individuals evidently experience many aspects of everyday life including work-related tasks, differently compared to neurotypical individuals. This raises the question of how neurodivergent researchers experience qualitative research where the researcher is the main instrument of data collection and analysis. We aimed to look into our experiences in qualitative research (interviews, focus groups, thematic analysis) as individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). We explore our strengths and our challenges and reflect on their impact on the qualitative research pathway, offering insight into the way we approach qualitative research, thus contributing a different perspective to the literature on reflexivity. Here, we draw upon our lived experiences through an exploratory research design and utilise a narrative approach to analyse our lived experiences as academics and individuals with ADHD. In this process, we engaged in self-awareness and self-reflection stages where we looked into our point of view of the world and our cognitive patterns. We examined what we were thinking and feeling and the time and looked into our basic assumptions and ADHD behaviour to contextualise the situation. Our initial findings suggest that we, as academics with ADHD, could bring a unique perspective due to our heightened sensitivity to nuances, creativity in data analysis, and an inclination towards nonlinear thinking. However, just like any other individual with ADHD, academics with this condition such as ourselves face challenges such as maintaining focus, time management, and emotional regulation. Overall, this study contributes to the growing body of literature on reflexivity in qualitative research. It also underscores the need for recognizing and valuing neurodiversity in academia by emphasizing the potential benefits of ADHD traits in qualitative research.

Keywords: Reflexivity, researchers, neurodiversity; qualitative research.

Abstract

Barriers to contraceptive methods uptake among married women in rural India: a qualitative study

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In rural India, the adoption of modern contraceptive methods among married women faces formidable challenges. Despite national efforts to enhance reproductive health, rural regions face unique challenges that include limited healthcare accessibility, deeply entrenched cultural norms, gender inequalities, and educational gaps that impede the embrace of contemporary contraceptive options. Addressing these barriers is imperative not only for individual well-being but also for the sustainable development and growth of rural regions. This exploration aims to identify and understand these impediments, ultimately contributing to more informed and effective interventions. Qualitative research was conducted in a rural setting in Pune, India in 2023 among married women aged 20 to 35. A total of 21 mothers have so far been involved in the project. In order to examine the obstacles preventing them from using contraceptives, in-depth interviews with 7 mothers were taken individually. Two sessions of focus group discussions were conducted among 14 mothers. Each session had 7 mothers, who were not part of the in-depth interview. Following data collection, digitally recorded data was translated from the local Hindi language to English, and coded using thematic analysis. Most mothers indicated an interest in using any type of contraception. The important barriers identified by the study to sustained use of contraceptives included peer-reported adverse effects, family influence to not use contraceptives, lack of knowledge, gaps in the health system delivery, and side effects faced due to the usage of contraceptives. Gaps in the delivery of the health system should be taken into consideration since they have a significant impact on mothers' widespread use of contraceptives. Government agencies should use numerous initiatives to increase community-wide understanding, not just among the mothers. Due to the global technology expansion, mainstream media and social media may readily contribute to the understanding of the community.

Keywords: Contraceptive side effects, contraceptive usage, rural, mothers, lack of knowledge.

Abstract

Unveiling the Satisfaction Levels of Home-Based Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic: An In-Depth Online Interview

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COVID-19 was declared by WHO as a global pandemic when it first hit China in December 2019. Strict implementation of SOPs was announced for social restrictions to control the spread of infection. Online home-based learning was introduced as a method of learning to ensure that school children do not fall behind the syllabus. This study aims to explore how home-based learning satisfaction changed before and until the pandemic. Studies showed that adolescents were not satisfied with home-based learning, creating difficulties in adapting the method and difficult in adaptation SOPs at schools. A phenomenology study was conducted. Data collection was held from December 2021 until March 2022. Twenty-three (23) adolescents who had undergone home-based learning in Selangor during the pandemic were interviewed during the online in-depth interview. A semi-structured interview guide was adopted and adapted from the literature review. Interviews were video recorded, transcribed verbatim, and anonymised. Transcripts were analysed thematically using the Framework Approach. Software NVivo 12 was used to speed up the coding process during data analysis. Three (3) themes emerged to create satisfaction which are social norms, perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. With all challenges identified, home-based learning becomes a negative experience for them especially when connectivity is unstable; this inevitably causes frustration and disappointment, affecting their preferred learning methods. Boys found more difficulties and were not satisfied with home-based learning compared to girls. Our thematic analysis concluded that adolescent satisfaction was greater before the pandemic. Future researchers should consider the same studies conducted among students from different economic backgrounds. Some limitations of the study are internet instability during the interview, disturbance from the informant's environment, and difficulty identifying non-verbal gestures. Finally, the online teaching method should be realigned and tailored to the student's expectations in order to increase satisfaction in learning.

Keywords: Satisfaction, home-based learning, pandemic, adolescent, COVID-19.

Abstract

Sequential Mixed-method Exploration Among Aggressive Secondary School Students.

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Studies worldwide have shown that adolescents' aggressive behaviour continues to increase. In some countries, this aggressive behaviour can lead to criminal acts resulting in physical sacrifices and death. Similarly in Malaysia, aggression among adolescents has become a paramount public health concern, with increasing violence among these age groups resulting in detrimental health impacts. Although many factors contribute to aggressive behaviour, the intra and interpersonal factors for this misbehaviour are still poorly understood. Thus, this study aims to explore, determine and explain factors of aggression identified from the Biopsychosocial model among secondary school students in Hulu Langat. A sequential explanatory mixed methods study was conducted using cross-sectional and basic qualitative studies. A stratified proportionate population sampling method was used to select respondents from all the public secondary schools in Hulu Langat, Selangor, which is a mix of urban and rural settlements. Subsequently, 14 equal male-female distributions of 16-year-old participants with high aggression scores captured from the quantitative data were purposely selected from four schools for further explanation through in-depth semi-structured interviews. The interviews were conducted in the Malay Language which was later translated to English. Each interview took 40 – 90 minutes and was conducted face-to-face. The recorded interviews were then transcribed verbatim and thematically analysed. Seven themes emerged from the thematic analysis, which explained the biopsychosocial predictors: (i) Racial Identity, (ii) Excessive Sweet, (iii) Affective, (iv) Behavioural, (v) Cognitive Component of Attitude, (vi) Disappointment in Family Socioeconomic Status, and (vii) Peer Factors. More targeted Public Health intervention could be applied for service recommendations using the biopsychosocial predictors and their explanation identified in this study. The findings from this study could be used to help improve the policies related to counselling within the Ministry of Education.

Keywords: Aggressive behaviour, adolescent, sequential, biopsychosocial model behaviour.

Abstract

To better understand the lived experiences of psychiatric nurses of workplace violence from patients in psychiatric in-patient units in Hong Kong

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Workplace violence is an area of significant and increasing concern for its high prevalence globally, especially in the field of psychiatric nursing. Psychiatric in-patient units are said to be 'hot spots' for violence and nurses working in this area are at increased risk for being victims of violence. The consequences go beyond short-term and long-term physical and psychological impacts, resulting in substantial deleterious effects on hospitals or even the entire healthcare system. There is a dearth of evidence that examines the experiences of Hong Kong psychiatric nurses' experiences of workplace violence. The aim of this study is to better understand the lived experience of psychiatric nurses who have been exposed to workplace violence in an inpatient psychiatric unit. This study used descriptive phenomenology based on the tradition of the Husserl approach. A purposive sampling was utilized with a sample of 6 eligible nurses as a result. In-depth, individual, face-to-face, semi-structured interviews were conducted, video-recorded and transcribed verbatim. The collected data was analysed by using Colaizzi's seven-step method. Five central themes were developed: (1) Predictable but inevitable catalysts for patient violence (2) Taking risks at work for its unsafe nature (3) Interventions with good intentions being rewarded with unpleasant costs (4) The silver lining in the experiences of patient's violence, and (5) Recognition of the meaning of psychiatric nursing. This study provides insight into the biopsychosocial needs and the support psychiatric nurses need. Hospitals must make pragmatic changes in strategies in the prevention and management of violence as well as targeted protocols to safeguard nurses' physical and psychological health. This study revealed the causes of patient violence, unsafe working environment and unpleasant aftermath of patient violence. However, psychiatric nurses found a silver lining in these negative experiences and recognized the meaning of being a nurse.

Keywords: Workplace violence, patient aggression, psychiatric nurse, mental health professional, phenomenology, lived experience.

Abstract

Exploring ESL Tertiary Learners' Learner-to-Content Interaction in Blended Environment through Qualitative Lens

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Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) aims to attain good quality higher education. Technology integration in teaching and learning is crucial in achieving the aim of SDG 4. The ninth shift in Malaysian Education Blueprint 2015 – 2025 emphasized integrating technology into teaching and learning. Thus, blended learning has been implemented in most of the Malaysian tertiary institutions for teaching and learning. A blended learning approach has also been integrated into ESL classrooms. Interaction is a significant aspect of effectively implementing the blended learning approach. Interaction, particularly learner-to-content interaction, is vital to ensure the efficiency of blended learning in ESL classrooms. Nevertheless, past studies reported the challenges ESL learners face in learner-to-content interaction in a blended environment, particularly in online communication learning. Hence, this study aims to explore ESL tertiary learners' learner-to-content interaction in a blended learning context. This study employed a qualitative research method to gather data on ESL learners' experiences regarding learner-to-content interaction in blended classrooms. Three types of instruments that were used to collect the qualitative data for this study include in-depth interviews, written accounts prepared by the participants, and focus group discussions. The data collected from all these instruments was analysed using thematic analysis as recommended by Braun and Clark. Based on thematic analysis, two significant themes and several subthemes were derived in this study. The two significant themes were learner perceptions, including positive and negative perceptions and learner expectations. This study provides theoretical and practical implications, particularly for curriculum designers and ESL educators. The result of this study is essential for ESL educators to improve blended learning implementation in ESL classrooms. Effective blended learning implementation helps to reduce the learners' challenges in learner-to-content interaction, particularly in online communication learning.

Keywords: Learner-to-content interaction, blended learning, ESL, tertiary learners, qualitative.

Abstract

No Medication Means No HIV Diagnosis - Exploring Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Initiation Decision-making among HIV/AIDS Patients in Hunan, China

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At least 30% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) have delayed ART initiation, resulting in irreversible impaired immune function and increased risk of transmission. In China, little is known about the ART initiation decision-making process. The dual-system theory contributed to the exploration of the ART initiation decision-making process from a behavioural decision-making perspective. A phenomenological research design was used and semi-structured, in-depth interviews based on dual-system theory were conducted. Participants who were aged 18 years or older and had been diagnosed with HIV seropositive after January 1, 2019, were selected using purposive sampling with maximum variation between 11 December 2021 and 25 June 2022. Interpretative phenomenological analysis was performed utilizing NVivo 12. In total, 34 PLHIV were interviewed, including 14 who had initiated ART timely (initiated within 30 days after diagnosis), 16 who had delayed initiating ART (initiated more than 30 days after diagnosis) and 4 who had not yet initiated ART. Based on dual-system theory, this study found that the PLHIV ART initiation decision-making process consisted of both a heuristic system and an analytic system working together. Heuristic system sub-themes included acceptability-denial, negative emotion, and stigma. Analytic system sub-themes included perception of the benefits of ART, positive support, and misconception. The heuristic system was a quick-thinking way of making decisions that relied on intuition and emotion. The analytic system was a slow way of thinking that required logical reasoning to make decisions. Both systems functioned correlatively and together influenced the ART initiation. This study found that the decision to initiate ART early after diagnosis is a complex psychosocial dynamic process for PLHIV. The process was exposed to multiple factors that were part of the heuristic system and analytic system. This study emphasized the need to consider the decision-making process in interventions and the importance of providing PLHIV with effective information support and positive emotional support.

Keywords: HIV, antiretroviral therapy, initiation, qualitative study, dual-system theory.

Abstract

Psychiatric Nurses' Perspectives on Service Users' Experiences of Involuntary Admission in the Psychiatric Hospital Setting of Hong Kong

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Involuntary psychiatric admission in hospital settings is inevitable all over the world to safeguard mentally ill individuals and communities. However, it has been considered a violation of human rights and commonly accompanies limited patients' therapeutic outcomes. There is very little research to explore different stakeholders' perspectives on the service users' experiences of involuntary psychiatric admission in different cultures and legislative systems to improve the quality of mental health services. Psychiatric nurses are the key stakeholders as the main service providers. The aim of this study was to better understand the psychiatric nurses' perspectives on service users' experiences of involuntary admission in the psychiatric hospital setting of Hong Kong. Inductive thematic analysis as described by Braun & Clarke was used to identify themes generated from the data collected by semi-structured individual face-to-face interviews. Five central themes were identified describing the patient's experience of involuntary psychiatric admission: i) the application for involuntary psychiatric admission; ii) the patient's reactions towards involuntary psychiatric admission; iii) life in the hospital; iv) interaction with family; and v) back to the community. This study highlights that nurses deem the experience could traumatize patients, making them disengage from mental health services after discharge and thus hinder their help-seeking behaviours. However, most of the participants pointed out that involuntary psychiatric admission was necessary as a final attempt to protect the community and help these patients with treatments efficiently. To improve the therapeutic outcomes of involuntary psychiatric admission, improving the insight of patients towards their mental illness is the key. In this study, nurses found these patients were unaware of the reason for admission and therefore acted passively in their treatment process, which resulted in poor treatment adherence after their discharge from the hospital.

Keywords: Inductive thematic analysis, psychiatric nurses' perspectives, involuntary psychiatric admission, compulsory psychiatric admission, Hong Kong, service users' experiences, patients' experience, mental health, mental health service, hospitalization.

Abstract

An Integrated Framework for Risk Evaluation of COVID-19 Vaccinations: A Qualitative Study in Hong Kong

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Vaccines have long been seen as a protective measure against widespread vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). Thus, constructs of attitude from traditional behavioural models were often employed to evaluate the perceived threat of VPDs and vaccine efficacy. However, during COVID-19, vaccination became “risky” due to growing concerns about the rapidly developed vaccines, such as side effects or the newly adopted technologies. Conventional frameworks used for vaccine hesitancy research cannot adequately account for these novel concerns and related behaviours. This study sought to address this knowledge gap by developing a robust framework for capturing people’s risk perceptions toward COVID-19 vaccination. This study was guided by a Constructivist Grounded Theory approach (Charmaz, 2006). Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with 21 Hong Kong citizens in either Chinese or English to explore their health-related risk perception of COVID-19 vaccines. Perception of COVID-19 and the risks associated with vaccination were two major themes that influenced people’s risk evaluation and subsequent COVID-19 vaccination decision-making. Perceived susceptibility and severity for both COVID-19 and the vaccines were assessed. Perceived benefits of vaccines were considered when evaluating risk perception for the vaccines. Specifically, participants reported great concerns about the consequences of COVID-19, whereas their perceived infection probability varied with the local pandemic situation. Participants were generally confident in vaccines’ protection and agreed that side effects were unlikely. Yet, they perceived these side effects to be severe. Together with the pandemic context and the individual’s response to low-probability but severe events, these considerations comprised a dynamic risk evaluation for COVID-19 vaccination. This study indicates that COVID-19 vaccination was perceived as both a protective and “risky” behaviour and individuals engaged in a dynamic and changing risk evaluation process. The integrated framework contributes to the evolving conventional behavioural models by providing a robust tool for measuring people’s vaccine-related attitudes and decision-making.

Keywords: Vaccine hesitancy, COVID-19 vaccination, behavioural theory, risk evaluation process, qualitative study, Grounded Theory.

Abstract

Challenges Faced by Hospices in Delivery of Community-Based Palliative Care: A Preliminary Study

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Palliative care is a branch of medicine that aims to improve the quality of life of patients and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. Community-based palliative care (CPC) service focuses on the provision of palliative care to patients residing in their own homes, often via home visits by healthcare providers. In Malaysia, hospices run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been the main providers of CPC for the last 30 years. Public primary care clinics have also started offering CPC services in recent years. Despite being established for many years, providing CPC services remains challenging for NGO-run hospices. This presentation aims to present preliminary analysis findings regarding challenges encountered by NGO-run hospices in providing CPC and to propose solutions to overcome these challenges. Utilising a generic qualitative approach, preliminary in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with three representatives from an established NGO-run hospice. These interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Thematic analysis of these preliminary interviews was performed to identify key themes. The five themes related to challenges faced by NGO-run hospices are insufficient resources for care delivery, dealing with unplanned service needs, service-related decision-making, working relationships with other healthcare facilities, and communication with patients and carers. Despite achieving much progress in the past 30 years, NGO-run hospices still face many challenges. A comprehensive approach focusing on improving resources, developing an integrated system to help coordinate home visits, regular multidisciplinary discussions, and enhanced communication skills training could help to address these challenges. Public-private collaboration, as advocated in the national policy for palliative care, is expected to benefit CPC delivery in Malaysia.

Keywords: Community palliative care, challenges, end-of-life care, home-based palliative care, health services research.

Abstract

Balancing Work and Family Life for Parents with Special Needs Children

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Past studies reported that working parents with special needs children are understudied and experience more challenges. They sought ways to prioritise family over work and avoid long hours, but they received limited support that helped them cope with responsibilities. No doubt, various family-friendly policies such as childcare assistance and parental leave were aggressively introduced by organisations but may not suit them due to intense care and more long-term minding needed than other parents. The objectives of this study are to explore: (1) these parents' perceptions of work-life balance experiences and the issues and challenges in navigating their daily hassles to ensure a feasible work and family, and (2) identify the various influences of parental gender role on raising children with special needs and the social convoy that best support them in their relationships with coworkers, families, and communities. In this descriptive qualitative study, thematic analysis was conducted on data collected during semi-structured, face-to-face interviews. Twelve (12) working parents of children with special needs in Sarawak were recruited using purposive sampling. The findings from the study show how working parents juggle their commitments to their families, careers, and self-care, and how parental gender role and social convoy affect their work-life balance. The findings also demonstrate that this group struggles with a myriad of work and non-work obligations while caring for themselves, parental gender roles, and the exact social convoy that they identify with and receive help from. The findings help to deeply understand the actions they take to overcome obstacles and cope in challenging and difficult situations. From a practical perspective, this study propels researchers to disseminate a comprehensive framework to practitioners as a form of direction in developing and improving work-family practices, and policies, and forming company laws in government and private organisations.

Keywords: Work-life balance, social convoy, gender role, parents with special needs children.

Abstract

Qualitative Analysis of Healthcare Frauds: Uncovering Healthcare Process

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Healthcare fraud, with its detrimental impact on patients, providers, and the healthcare system, has garnered increased attention in recent years. This qualitative study delves into the intricate world of healthcare fraud by engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials, and whistleblowers. The study, employing a thematic analysis approach, investigates the interplay between organizational culture, individual greed, and regulatory gaps to unravel the motivations behind healthcare fraud. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, the study emphasized the significance of comprehending stakeholders in a broader context. Stakeholders, acknowledged as essential players in an organisation's success and reputation, underscore the need for transparency and accountability. In-depth interviews and document analysis were conducted as research methods, furthering our understanding of stakeholder engagement and its impact on organizational processes. The study encompasses a diverse sample of stakeholders, ensuring a rich and nuanced perspective on healthcare fraud. These stakeholders, selected from various healthcare sectors were interviewed face-to-face. The participants included 5 healthcare professionals, 3 law enforcement officials, and 3 whistleblowers, representing a balanced mix of genders and age groups. Through thematic analysis, the study unveils the underlying mechanisms driving stakeholder activities, elucidating how these processes can inadvertently create opportunities for fraud. This analysis also sheds light on the challenges organizations face in detecting and preventing fraud at the stakeholder's end. The insights gained from interviews with industry experts and practitioners underscore the limitations of current fraud prevention mechanisms and emphasise the need for enhanced due diligence, transparency, and compliance measures within the healthcare system. In conclusion, this qualitative analysis offers a comprehensive exploration of stakeholder processes and potential fraud risks within the healthcare sector.

Keywords: Healthcare, fraud, qualitative, healthcare fraud, stakeholder.

Abstract

New Generation in Workplace: Are We Ready?

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The emergence of Generation Z in the labour market necessitates employers to adequately anticipate and accommodate their entrance. Over the past decade, a plethora of advancements have unequivocally enhanced productivity and adaptability within workplace environments as a result of profound technological revolution, and unparalleled increase in interconnectedness. The current paradigm shift significantly affects the physical and psychological well-being, overall satisfaction, and productivity of employees. To examine the importance of organisational adaptation, flexibility, and the future of work in the context of the changing workforce, particularly with the emergence of the new generation in the workplace, the study used a qualitative methodology. Ten participants including human resource professionals with extensive experience in workplace management, the Malaysian Human Resource Ministry and other relevant governmental agencies were interviewed one-on-one. In addition, twenty participants including males and females from both Generation Y and Z, from the same generational cohort will be interviewed using focus group discussion, since both groups introduce novel behavioural patterns. The study reveals that the new generation prioritise work-life equilibrium and overall well-being to a greater extent. The advent of remote work offers them the opportunity to attain these objectives through enhanced flexibility. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the phenomenon known as “the Great Resignation” presents a significant obstacle for employers who are faced with retaining their skilled workforce. The primary factors that contribute to this phenomenon include a strong inclination towards greater autonomy, a deep sense of passion and purpose, a quest for meaning at work, and a sense of duty to be available at all hours. A comprehensive understanding of the precedents established by employers is essential in adequately preparing the industry for the emergence of new generations. The current juncture necessitates a thorough assessment and re-conceptualisation of the traditional workplace setting, aligning it with the objectives outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Gen Z, generational gaps, flexibility, private sector, work-life balance, work autonomy, technological revolution, future of work, Malaysia, SDGs.

Abstract

Seeing 'monkey' malaria through the eye of communities at risk at Kudat, Sabah

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The coexistence of macaque monkeys, and Anopheles mosquito in proximity to human settlements pose a persistent challenge to malaria elimination program in Malaysia. This study employed photovoice, a participatory visual method to explore the barriers and facilitators for mosquito bite prevention in rural communities in Sabah, Malaysia. Method. From January to June 2022, 26 participants aged over 18 years old were purposively selected from four rural villages in Kudat, Sabah. Participants who were male and female villagers, aged more than 18 years old, used smartphones to capture photographs illustrating factors that enable or hinder mosquito avoidance and provided accompanying narratives. Twelve Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) sessions in three rounds were conducted in the Sabah Malay dialect, recorded, and transcribed using reflexive thematic analysis, rooted in the Ideation Model, a meta-theoretical model of behaviour change. Findings. Participants identified various barriers, including low perceived malaria threat, livelihood and lifestyle activities influenced by the local economy and socio-cultural norms, and challenges posed by the physical and social environment. Facilitators included opportunities for indoor stays, particularly for women who are homemakers, social support from households, neighbours, and healthcare workers, as well as support from healthcare services and malaria awareness programs. Discussion/conclusion. The study highlights the importance of stakeholder support in implementing practical and affordable approaches for P. knowlesi malaria control. The findings offer insights into the complexities of preventing P. knowlesi malaria in rural Kudat, Sabah, and emphasize the value of community participation in research for understanding local challenges and devising strategies to overcome them. These insights can inform improved zoonotic malaria control strategies, contributing to societal transformation and reducing health disparities in malaria prevention.

Keywords: Malaria, photovoice, participatory visual method, community participation, Sabah, Malaysia.

Abstract

Experience and Impact of Interviewer-Interviewee Power Relationship

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Interviewing is one of the powerful tools in qualitative research that allows the researchers to delve into the perspectives, beliefs, and experiences of their interviewees. Throughout the interview, it is crucial for the interviewer to carefully build, maintain, and nurture the power relations with the interviewee for a profound understanding of the research subject. Power can be seen to be something that is created and shifted between the interviewer and the interviewee. However, various factors can strain the relationship between the interviewers and the interviewees. This paper will further discuss the complexities of the power relationship between the interviewers and interviewees, especially if the relationship remains active after the interview sessions. In this study, an interview was conducted between a student interviewer with a former meso-level professional who once held a high-ranking position in a public higher education institution. Despite adhering to interview protocols and ethical considerations, the interviewer encountered complexities in the interviewer-interviewee relationship where there were incidents that were identified by the interviewer as a series of discomforts, attempts at maintaining a status quo, and a power-relations dilemma. These incidents were captured systematically in her reflective notes. The findings underscore that an imbalance in the interviewer-interviewee power relations results in asymmetrical powers that could significantly influence the interview experience. Consequently, the produced interview data may be lacking in-depth and inaccurate. Hence, it is crucial to carefully identify and assess the social relationship between the interviewer and interviewee to determine how power relations impact the quality of data that is produced in the study. Further recommendations have been put forth to aid other researchers in preparing for similar situations, with the aim of establishing a more equitable relationship between the interviewer and interviewee while safeguarding the integrity of the research

Keywords: Interview, power relations, social relationship, positionality.

Abstract

Qualitative Research: Employer Branding Influences on Recruitment Outcomes

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The research explores the impact of employer branding on recruitment outcomes in the financial industry in Malaysia, focusing on employees' perceptions and experiences. Attracting top talent is vital for an organisation's growth and sustainability as human capital is a valuable resource that contributes to the success of an organisation. Meanwhile, a positive employer reputation communicates that the company is an excellent employer and offers a good workplace environment. Therefore, many organisations now have begun to focus on developing and building their Employee Value Proposition (EVP). Henceforth, in today's competitive job market, organisations are beginning to recognise the importance of employer branding in influencing recruitment outcomes. EVP, however, is defined differently across companies, notably with the shifting demographics, economic situations, technologies, and emergence of Covid-19. With current data highlighting the importance of effective recruitment, it is emphasised that organisations are required to have a proper brand to differentiate themselves and gain a competitive edge in the job market. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate: (1) What is the perception of HR Practitioners in the financial industry in Malaysia on employer branding?, (2) How do employees perceive recruitment practices in the financial industry in Malaysia? and (3) How does this perception affect recruitment outcomes? In-depth interviews were conducted among 20 Malaysian employees in the financial industry in Malaysia, encompassing the Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), Commercial, Investment and Islamic Banks. The data is then analysed using thematic analysis. The findings will provide valuable insights regarding Employer Branding strategies and the human resource recruitment processes. Implications for research and practice will also be discussed which may serve as a catalyst for implementing interventions and strategies to cultivate a more supportive and inclusive workplace environment for all. Insights for further research will also be highlighted.

Keywords: Employer branding, organisational culture, recruitment, employee retention.

Abstract

The Lived Experience of Secondary School Teachers in Supporting Students with Mental Health Issues: A Descriptive Phenomenological Study

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There is an increase in secondary school students experiencing mental health issues. Outside the home environment, secondary school teachers are often the ideal person to identify and support adolescents with mental health issues. However, little is known about secondary school teachers' experiences, thoughts, feelings, and perceptions in supporting this student cohort, especially in Asian countries. Currently, qualitative studies are rarely used to explore these experiences in this area. It is therefore recommended that qualitative research focusing on Asian communities be conducted. This study aims to understand the lived experiences of secondary school teachers in supporting students with mental health issues in a Chinese context. A descriptive phenomenological approach within the tradition of Husserl was used to explore the lived experience of secondary school teachers caring for students with mental health problems in a Chinese context. A purposive sampling method was used to identify the participants in Changsha, Hunan, China. Individual, face-to-face interviews were conducted, tape-recorded, and transcribed. Colaizzi's seven-step descriptive phenomenological method was used to do the data analysis. Sixteen secondary school teachers participated in this study. Four major themes emerged: (1) Not being able to recognize mental health issues within the classroom. (2) Trying to support the students with mental health issues. (3) Feeling helpless and useless within the constrain of the system. (4) Feeling personal growth through reflection. Although secondary school teachers articulated many challenges when supporting students with mental health issues, they also describe the abilities and strategies they employ to manage the issues within the constrain of the school system. An increasing understanding of the lived experience of secondary school teachers, when they support students with mental health issues, can guide school nursing emancipatory actions.

Keywords: Secondary school, mental health issues, phenomenology, qualitative study.

Abstract

Exploring Biases In Narrative Construction Through Storytelling

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Narrative research conceptualizes human experience through an in-depth exploration of the meanings people assign to their experiences. Although narratives usually yield rich and free-ranging discourse, nonetheless, they are never free from biases. This paper explores the concept of bias identified through the narration of the storyteller's viewpoints of a video prompt. The narratives of the four 'storytellers' are analysed to identify some common types of biases such as similarity bias, expedience bias, experience bias, distance bias and safety bias. The video prompt is a 4:30-minute snippet of one of Charlie Chaplin's messages. The four storytellers are two females and two males representing different age groups. The participants are required to listen to the speech twice before they 'write' and 'tell' their story which are derived and inspired by the speech. All narrations are videotaped to facilitate transcription and data analysis. Once the biases are identified, participants are asked to validate whether the analyses are an accurate representation of their viewpoints. This research delves into the realm of narrative construction through storytelling to illuminate researchers on the intricacy of multifaceted biases. It scrutinises how biases permeate the entire narration process, encompassing the formation, interpretation, and documentation of participants' perceptions. It presents 'biases' as the output of qualitative research and deliberates on the subjective and unique viewpoints, experiences and judgments of qualitative research. It promotes the need to also comprehend biases beyond 'something to avoid' in order for the study to be 'valid. It differentiates 'bias' associated with the positivist viewpoint that research or data might be contaminated by lack of objectivity or data manipulation, the constructivist viewpoint where bias as a concept does not apply as a valid critique of qualitative research. The research's ultimate goal is to uncover the many interpretations of what 'bias' actually means in the domain of qualitative research.

Keywords: Qualitative research design, narrative construction, bias, storytelling.

Abstract

Paradox of Plenty: Designing and Conducting a Qualitative Research Design to Explain the Existence of Resource-rich Low-income States in Malaysia

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Many scholars in the resource curse literature have argued that the phenomenon of slower economic growth in resource-rich economies than in their resource-poor counterparts may be transmitted either from macroeconomics or political economy channels. The former channel, which holds the positivism paradigm, suggests the resource curse manifests from comparative advantage disruption in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors due to income gains from the exploitation of natural resources. Meanwhile, previous studies that argued political economy as the resource curse transmission channel align with the interpretivism paradigm. It explains that institutional failure, i.e., low decision-making capacity and high rent-seeking level, amplifies the resource curse phenomenon in resource-rich economies. This study offers a critical realist perspective on the resource curse phenomenon. It looks beyond the empirical and actual domains by analysing underlying mechanisms that may explain the subnational resource curse phenomenon. It addresses the phenomenon of resource-rich, low-income state governments from the public policy perspective. It investigates the extent of subnational policy capacity, especially policy competencies, through the conceptual lens of policy design to explain the low-income growth of Sabah and Terengganu, two oil-rich states in Malaysia, as case studies. This paper presents the methodological approaches adopted in the study. It details how and why the author adopts a particular stance throughout his study. It begins with an explanation of critical realism as the research paradigm. Next, it covers the operationalisation of the semi-structured interviews and documentary analysis as the data collection approach and thematic analysis for the data analytical approach. It ends with reflections based on the author's understanding and his on-the-ground experience of designing and conducting a qualitative research design for the study.

Keywords: Methodology, qualitative, critical realism, policy capacity.

Abstract

Intrusiveness in Observation: Catching the Intangible Elements

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Observation in qualitative research is a powerful method for collecting data by systematically watching and recording phenomena in their natural settings. Observers must be equipped with skills and techniques for documenting the collected data. But this method also often invites bias in social science studies, making it less of a choice among researchers to apply it as the main method. In some cases, the presence of an observer may alter the behaviour of the subjects being observed. This is known as the Hawthorne effect, where people modify their behaviour when they know they are being observed. Recent studies also have identified numerous contributing factors to challenges in observation, such as insufficient time for observation, poorly defined purposes, inadequate training, inauthentic observational interactions, trustworthiness issues, and low-quality data. This paper specifically focuses on the techniques applied in observing multiple settings. The observation took place in a public higher education institution involving 12 groups of students participating in the Karya Philo-Sophia Project to explore their behaviour regarding the decolonisation process using the running record method. The results revealed that observing various settings through running records is challenging, especially when focusing on intangible variables such as participants' behaviour. In addition, the big challenge faced is to collect recordings that are conducted simultaneously with their separate positions in their respective rooms. This complexity puts pressure on researchers during data analysis to see their behaviour in the context of appreciating cultural values and virtues learned during the completion of the project. Therefore, this paper highlights strategies to minimize challenges in the observational method, particularly for untrained or inexperienced researchers. The recommendations provided offer guidance to other researchers on how these observational strategies could be employed as a primary research method.

Keywords: Qualitative research, observational method, multiple settings, running record.

Abstract

Healthcare Professionals Perspective on Environmental Pollution, Hazards, and Health: Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

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Environmental pollution is a growing and significant threat globally. Various pollution hazards, including ambient air pollution and toxic chemical pollution, are increasing especially in low- and middle-income countries. Community awareness and involvement in environmental protection measures are essential to prevent the hazardous effects. Healthcare professionals are entrusted by the community and they play an important role as initiators for the prevention and control of environmental pollution. This study aimed to systematically review the literature and to synthesise qualitative evidence on the perspective of health professionals towards environmental pollution, hazards, and health. A systematic literature search was conducted in Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, and CINAHL databases. Relevant literature published from January 2000 to July 2023 was searched and by using search terms that were developed based on the PICO format focusing on the study population, issues of interest, context, and outcome. Qualitative studies and mixed-method studies were selected with Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: PRISMA guidelines by two independent researchers. Qualitative data from the included articles were extracted and analysed by thematic synthesis using R-based Qualitative Data Analysis (RQDA) software. A total of 1791 articles were screened for the title and abstract, and 208 articles were screened for full text. We identified 9 articles that fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were included in the evidence synthesis. The qualitative data are currently analysed by thematic evidence synthesis. The findings of this study will highlight the views of healthcare professionals on addressing environmental pollution issues and attribute their roles to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, understanding the perspective of healthcare professionals will be beneficial to developing the interventions to promote them as leaders and advocates for environmental protection measures in the community.

Keywords: Environmental pollution, environmental hazards, air pollution, healthcare.

Abstract

Online learning satisfaction: a pilot study

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Despite physical distances, online learning allows institutes to continue their education. Student enrolment and retention are essential concerns for all higher education institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, most educational institutions around the globe shifted to online learning. With the growth of online e-learning usage around the world, it was necessary to improve the accessibility of teaching and learning and imperative to assess student satisfaction to understand their behaviour. Due to this, it is vital to monitor student opinions via social media and the Internet. Thus, this study aims to explore the student's opinions about online learning and provide educators, policymakers, and researchers with a comprehensive understanding of the state of online learning, guiding informed decisions and inspiring further exploration of this dynamic field. As online learning continues to evolve, understanding and addressing the student's opinions will be crucial in ensuring its effectiveness and sustainability. These opinions can influence students' perceptions of online learning were investigated using comprehensive qualitative research by distributing surveys to students and getting their answers to open-ended questions. The response to the study from university students as its target will be analysed using the data mining algorithms. The results from the analysis of the student's answers define other factors that can affect the students' satisfaction with online learning and discuss them further in a focus group discussion that will include university students in year 4, year 3, and year 2. They will be probed and asked open-ended questions about their experience and factors that affect their online learning. In conclusion, the qualitative analysis result is a systematic investigation of the factors that need to be considered by the institutions to implement the online learning system in education. The findings from this study would present insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on online learning and its potential long-term effects on the educational landscape.

Keywords: Online learning, factors, learners, qualitative.

Abstract

The Transformative Role of Teachers: Shaping the Future Talent of the Nation

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This study delves into the pivotal role of teachers as agents of change in the pursuit of transforming the future talent of a nation. The backdrop of this research is the primary issue of future talent in Malaysia. In 2019, the Department of Statistics Malaysia showed that 72% of students who had just sat for the Sijil Peperiksaan Malaysia, the Malaysian equivalent of the Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level examination, chose not to further their studies in higher education institutions (HEIs). Furthermore, data from the Ministry of Higher Education also indicated a decrease in student enrolment in HEIs between 2018 and 2021. Failure to address and prioritise these concerns might result in a significant loss of Malaysia's talent pool in the future. This study aims to explore how teachers serve as catalysts for positive change, impacting not only the academic growth of their students but also their personal development, both important considerations for the socio-economic development of the country. This study will employ a qualitative approach through semi-structured interviews. Through purposive sampling design, teachers from secondary schools in Sabah will be selected as participants. Based on the principle of saturation, it is expected that interviewing 15 teachers will provide a sufficient sample for this study. By better understanding the critical roles of teachers as change agents, this paper aims to inform policies and initiatives that promote the growth and development of teachers, fortifying the educational system and improving the prospects of the nation. This study underscores the urgency of recognizing teachers as instrumental agents of change for a brighter future in Malaysia. Addressing the concerns of declining higher education enrollment is vital to ensuring the nation's talent pool remains vibrant and robust.

Keywords: Future talent, teacher, agent of change.

Abstract

Enhancing Brand Development Strategies for Fitness Apps in Social Media: A Case Study of “Keep”

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Fitness-related apps that enhance user experience are emerging as people focus more on physical exercise. For instance, ‘Keep’ is a famous Chinese sports app that has brought new opportunities and considerations to health communication. However, more research on brand development strategies for sports apps needs to be done. This paper explores brand development strategies for sports apps using a case study approach that examines Keep’s consumer scenario construction and focuses on social media. We collected data through focus group interviews. Six 18-30-year-old Keep’s users (light, moderate, and heavy) gave 2-hour online interviews to express their views. They formed one group. Three themes were established using the focus group interview method: online consumer scenarios, offline consumer scenarios, and combined online and offline consumer scenarios. Data saturation was achieved, and the interviews were concluded. We recorded and transcribed focus group interviews verbatim, removing redundant themes and statements. Thematic coding was used to analyse the data. An initial set of codes was developed based on predefined research questions and emergent themes from the data, and these codes were systematically applied to the transcripts. A codebook was created to define and standardise the codes used in the analysis, including code definitions, examples, and guidelines for consistent application. The coded data were then summarised and condensed into meaningful categories and themes. This process involved identifying patterns, similarities, and differences in participants’ responses. Two researchers coded themes independently to enhance reliability. We compared themes from different focus groups and allowed participants to review and provide feedback on the summarised findings. The research findings indicate that fitness app brands need core advantages, more consumer touchpoints, and innovative connections for success. These insights offer practical guidance for health communication research in social media.

Keywords: Keep, sports APP, consumption scene, user experience, brand-building strategy.

Abstract

Reimagining Femininity: Exploring the 'Barbie' Effect on Perceptions of Women in Contemporary China

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The release of the film Barbie in China has sparked a multi-pronged debate spanning the fields of feminism, gender image and media influence. Two camps seem to exist in response to the film. One camp has praised the film's perceptive reconstruction of feminist narratives in terms of its reflections on body image, look anxiety and its exploration of differences in thinking and ways of getting along between genders and generations. In contrast, the other camp has attacked the film's representation of feminism as superficial, weak, and subservient to social norms. This study hopes to provide a comprehensive examination of both discourses through the lens of gender and media studies. The post-viewing experience of the film Barbie among a group of Chinese women of different age groups, educational backgrounds, and geographic regions is investigated through snowballing data collection. Semi-structured interviews will be used as the research methodology with a sample size of 8 to 10 selected, or until data saturation is reached. Interviews will be conducted face-to-face and audio-recorded with the prior consent of the interviewees. The data collected will then be transcribed verbatim and then analysed using the software MAXQDA. The interviews which will be conducted in the Mandarin language will be translated into English. The focus of this study is to explore how the film resonates with these women personally and socially and seeks to reveal how the film has influenced their perceptions of self-identity, gender roles and aspirations. Social constructionism suggests that "gender" is essentially "social gender" and is a product of social, historical, and cultural co-construction. Through multifaceted analyses, this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the intersection between cinema, feminism, and the formation of women's personal and social gender roles in the Chinese context.

Keywords: Barbie film, media and gender, feminism, Chinese women.

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