

CALL FOR CHAPTERS: Social Science Research in South Africa: Theory and Applications

1. OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK:

Researchers in the social sciences in South Africa utilize research methods in innovative ways in order to respond to the diversity present in the country's population as well as the unique circumstances in which we find ourselves. The growth in expertise on doing research in South African and developing world contexts has grown phenomenally since 1994. However this expertise and the methods used are often not documented but if exposed to a broader audience they would have the potential to contribute much to the quality of research scholarship locally and abroad. Furthermore, existing books on research methods in South Africa are mainly in the form of academic textbooks that explain research theory and methods but provide little in terms of application and illustration of methods as well as little in terms of critical reflection on the application of methods in the South African and/or developing world context.

The chapters in this book will be a combination of research theory and applications as a means of disseminating knowledge on best research practices for South African researchers, practitioners and students. The book will be divided into 2 sections. Chapters in Section 1 will focus on providing an overview of the basic research principles and processes involved in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. Thus the focus will be on the steps involved in the research process – deciding on a topic, reviewing literature, selecting a sample, choosing a research method, conceptualizing a research design and deciding on an appropriate data analytic technique. Chapters in Section 2 are conceptualized as a combination of conceptual and application chapters where local experts in various research methods are invited to submit a chapter that summarises the theory underlying their method, illustrates the method by virtue of an actual research example and emphasises the particular implications, advantages, limitations and utility of this method for a South African context. The chapters are envisaged as encompassing the descriptive aspects that are provided in existing books but adding further depth to them as well as adding a substantial section on local research from a methods perspective.

Given the increased availability of multimedia and internet access and the rise of open access publishing, it is also no longer reasonable for students and researchers to have to pay huge amounts for

texts published via commercial publishers. The publication of this book will follow a hybrid model in terms of making the book available online to those who need to use it but also provide print and e-book options for those who wish to purchase it.

2. PROPOSED CHAPTERS

Abstracts are invited for but not restricted to the following proposed chapters

Section 1 – Basic research principles and processes

This section focuses primarily on the theoretical aspects of conducting a research project. As such, the chapters will largely define and explain concepts as well as provide some relevant guidelines, sources and critiques within each of the chapter areas. Where examples are used to illustrate a particular concept or method, these will be primarily from South Africa, African or other developing countries so as to expose readers to methods that have a practical relevance within a context that is appropriate for South Africa

- 1.1. Locating your research in a paradigm
- 1.2. Getting started: How to search for literature
- 1.3. Writing a literature review/Systematic vs narrative reviews
- 1.4. Choosing a research method
- 1.5. Research Design: Quantitative research
- 1.6. Research design: Qualitative perspective
- 1.7. Research Design: Mixed Methods designs
- 1.8. Choosing a sample
- 1.9. Data collection considerations
- 1.10. Data Analysis: Quantitative
- 1.11. Data Analysis: Qualitative (Thematic, content, discourse, grounded theory)
- 1.12. Establishing rigor in research methods
- 1.13. Writing a Research Proposal
- 1.14. Writing your research report
- 1.15. Applying for funding
- 1.16. Conferencing and publication

Section 2

Section 2 chapters will focus primarily on the practical application of a particular method in the South African context. As such, the chapters will focus on explaining the use of the method with regards to a particular research study or project. It is envisaged that the chapters will consist of an explanation of the method but the bulk of the chapter will focus on a practical example illustrating the use of the method, issues to consider when using the method, limitations and advantages of the method and recommendations for the utility and effectiveness of the method in conducting social science research in the South African context. Key considerations for these chapters include but are not restricted to: access to resources, working with diverse target populations and samples, the relationship between research and policy and key research areas of focus that are particular to the South African landscape. Readers of the chapter should gain an understanding of how to apply a particular method in practice as well as how to write up the methods and results in relation to the actual study conducted.

- 2.1. Conducting research in the South African context
- 2.2. Experimental research (pre/quasi/true)
- 2.3. Correlational research -
- 2.4. Longitudinal research
- 2.5. Grounded Theory
- 2.6. Narrative Approaches
- 2.7. Feminist Approaches
- 2.8. Transformative Approaches
- 2.9. Discourse analysis
- 2.10. Mixed methods: triangulation designs/embedded designs/exploratory designs/explanatory designs

3. Length of Chapters

Each chapter is to be between 3500- 5500 words (including notes and references, approx. 20 pages - double spaced). Chapters need to be presented in APA style.

4. Proposed Time Scales

Receive abstracts by 31 August 2015.

Respond to potential authors by 30 September 2015

Allow 4 months for authors to write and submit their chapters by end of January 2016.

Receive chapters and send for peer review (2 reviewers) and send feedback to authors during February and March, 2016

Feedback to authors and receive revised chapters by end of May, 2016

Compile manuscript for publisher June-July, 2016

Submission of final manuscript to publisher – August, 2016

Publication by January, 2017

5. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Interested authors may submit abstracts (250-300 words) or queries electronically to:

editor@socialsciencemethods.co.za

Abstracts must be received by 31 August 2015.

6. EDITORS

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