

Criminology 321

Qualitative Research Methods in Criminology

Qualitative & Quantitative

Quantitative

- Interested in generating models/theories that predict/understand *ceteris paribus* or “in general”
- So ... the bigger the numbers, and the more representative the sampling, the more confident you can be in understanding the aggregate pattern

Qualitative

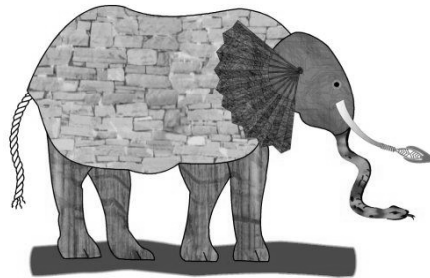
- Interested in understanding behaviour in context
- So ... the emphasis is on case-study analysis, which requires us to be in that context (the field) in order to fully understand what went into producing that behaviour at that time in that place

Qualitative & Quantitative

- When limitations are not acknowledged, the results can be disastrous
- “Ecological fallacy”; goes both ways
general ↔ particular
- Rather like the difference between basic sciences (physics, chemistry, geology, etc) and engineering or medicine
- Neither “better;” each implies the other

Truths are Partial

- Understandings and truths are always incomplete and partial, rather like the fable of the elephant:



An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- Humans act toward things based on the meanings those things have for them;

Methodological Implications

- This calls for a phenomenological perspective, i.e., we have to see how people see the world around them
- It also calls for a more inductive approach – start with *their* vocabulary and concepts instead of ours

Inductive vs. Deductive?

- Esterberg could have been clearer regarding the similarities and complementarities of qualitative and quantitative. She provides these images:

6 CHAPTER 1 What Is Social Research?

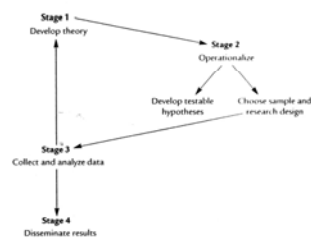


FIGURE 1.1 A Deductive Approach to Research

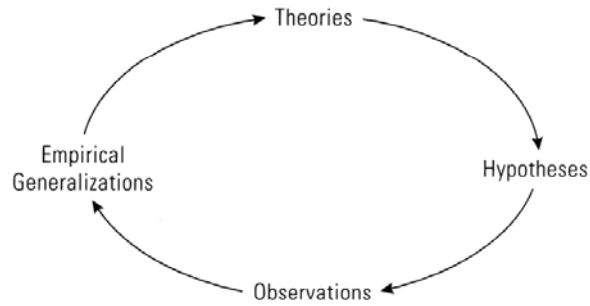
The Research Process: Moving Between Theory and Data 7



FIGURE 1.2 An Inductive Approach to Research

Figure 3.1

Wallace's "Wheel of Science"



SOURCE: W. Wallace. (1971). *The Logic of Science in Sociology*. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine Atherton. Reprinted with permission.

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- Humans act toward things based on the meanings those things have for them;

Methodological Implications

- The approach values closeness and rapport instead of aloofness and social distance
- Research is *emergent* – looking for issues of interest rather than imposing them (part of an *inductive* approach)

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- Humans act toward things based on the meanings those things have for them;

Methodological Implications

- While typically seeking to understand the perspective of participants, need not and often are not constrained by those views
 - A controversial area

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- The meanings of things arise out of social interaction, i.e., in context

Methodological Implications

- Therefore, we cannot pull things out of context in order to understand them
- *Ceteris* is never *paribus* in the real world
- We need to look at behaviour *in situ* ... so we do field research

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- The meanings of things arise out of social interaction, i.e., in context

Methodological Implications

- Place greater emphasis on *depth* than breadth; often relies on *case study* analysis, or small numbers of cases
 - Emphasis on “rich” data and “thick” description

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- Meanings are constructed (and change) through a process of social interpretation

Methodological Implications

- We are humans understanding humans
 - reflexivity important
- Have to be willing to be empirical and “reality test”
 - The data have to make a difference

An Interpretive Paradigm

Premise

- Meanings are constructed (and change) through a process of social interpretation

Methodological Implications

- Researcher as *bricoleur* – willing to consider any sort of data that may aid the analysis
 - *Triangulation* valued
 - *data redundancy* and *satiation* help assess validity

Qualitative Perspectives

- Part of the beauty of qualitative research is that it both mirrors and reflects the sorts of processes we engage in in everyday life
- Research a very generic process – we have a problem; we seek information that addresses it; we evaluate the information; we reach conclusions

Qualitative Perspectives

- Ways Palys departs from Esterberg:
 - Critical realism: Knowledge is socially constructed, but not “anything goes”
 - Requires us to attend not just to *plausible* explanations, but *rival plausible* explanations

Qualitative Perspectives

- Not formulaic: tantalizing and scary
- Part of what we must learn is how to do it well
- Let’s look at a couple of examples in the everyday world; qualitative research is everywhere

Logic of Qualitative Inquiry

- Physicians: diagnostics (see *House*)
- Forensic Specialists: (see books by Kathy Reichs or watch *Bones*; *CSI*)
- Coroners: prevention (*DaVinci's Inquest*; *Quincy*)
- Computer tech support



Globe British Columbia

THE GLOBE AND MAIL • CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER • GLOBEANDMAIL.COM • MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006

Sub seeks clues in ferry disaster

Transportation Safety Board seeking clues to accident's cause

BY WENDEY WATSON
The somber aftermath of the sinking of the Queen of the North continued yesterday, as a single-person submarine began to survey the wreck and cleanup crews struggled to mop up fuel leaking from the raised ship.

The sub, a bubble-topped vessel developed by renowned Vancouver diver and inventor Phil Nuytco through his Nuytco Research Ltd., is expected to provide critical information such as whether the ship is intact or broken into parts and whether fuel is leaking from a single or multiple locations.

"We are hoping to find out how the accident happened," Transportation Safety Board spokesman John Cottreau said yesterday in a telephone interview from Prince Rupert.

"If we can get a look at the hull, then we can see what it hit and what damage was done." Nuytco has sent two subs to the site. Only one is expected to be in use at any one time, a B.C. Ferries spokesman said yesterday.

The subs could also provide answers regarding passengers Gerald Foley and Shirley Rowette, a couple who boarded the ferry last Thursday in Prince Rupert and have not been accounted for since. The RCMP is investigating their disappearance.

B.C. Ferries has hired Nuytco to provide the subs as part of an investigation being overseen by the federal Transportation Safety Board.

Investigators from the agency began interviewing passengers and crew Friday, taking the first steps in a process that will determine how a routine sailing went so terribly wrong.

The Queen of the North was on a regularly scheduled run from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy when the ship went off course, hit a rock and sank in about an hour early last Wednesday morning.

Ninety-nine passengers and crew were rescued, aided by residents of nearby aboriginal village of Harder Bay.

On Saturday, Captain Raymond Marlow of the Transportation Safety Board said to date there have been no indications of any kind of mechanical failure with the main engine or steering gear.

But Captain Marlow refused to discuss whether human error may have played a role in the accident, saying that would amount to speculation.

Many commentators, including a retired ferry captain who spent three decades on the Inside Passage route, have speculated that human error must have played a role — given the speed at which the ship was believed to be travelling, its slow of navigational aids and the distance, more than a kilometre, it had gone off course.

The Transportation Safety Board will draw no conclusions until it finishes its investigation, Mr. Cottreau said.

See FERRY on page S3

Former Quebec premier to head inquiry into fatal freeway collapse

Kate Lunau, CanWest News Service; Montreal Gazette
Published: Monday, October 02, 2006

LAVAL, Que. — Former Quebec premier Pierre Marc Johnson will head a public inquiry to determine exactly what went wrong Saturday when a highway overpass in Laval collapsed, killing five people and severely injuring six others, senior government ministers announced Sunday.

Two of the dead were a couple on their way to pick up their son from a hockey game.

But one day after the tragedy, officials had no explanation for how or why part of the overpass crumbled to the ground early Saturday afternoon.

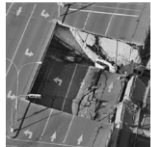
"We can't technically explain what happened," Transport minister Michel Despres said Sunday as he announced plans for a public inquiry.

Despres called the collapse "extraordinary in character."

When the first calls came in to police that debris was falling off the highway, a crew was dispatched to pick up the concrete, but they did not close the highway. The Quebec Transport Ministry did, however, send out a message via pager to journalists warning that there were pieces of concrete on the ground.

About an hour later, three eastbound lanes and the pedestrian walkway came crashing down on the highway below, crushing vehicles beneath and sending others plummeting to the level below.

"The patroller who did the inspection took the time to look and listen," said Despres. "If there was any indication that this would have happened, he would have closed it."



[View Larger Image](#)
As neatly as if it had been sawn, a section of an overpass on Laval's de la Concorde Blvd. collapsed onto Highway 19 yesterday. Montreal Gazette/John Mahoney

[Email to a friend](#)

Final chapter in Braidwood inquiry begins in Vancouver

Last Updated: Thursday, June 18, 2009 10:13 PM PT Comments 204 Recommended 79
CBC News



Clockwise from top left, Const. Gerry Ruidel, Const. Bill Bentley, Cpl. Murty Robinson and Const. Kwesi Milington were not charged in the death of Robert Dziekanski. (CBC)

More than a year after it first began, the Braidwood inquiry will hear final submissions Friday on the death of Robert Dziekanski — the Polish immigrant who died after being jolted several times with a stun gun by RCMP officers at Vancouver International Airport in October 2007.

The inquiry was almost derailed when the four officers launched a court challenge questioning commissioner Thomas Braidwood's authority to find them guilty of misconduct, but their case was rejected in B.C. Supreme Court earlier this week.

Inquiry counsel Art Vertlieb said he's relieved the challenge, which questioned whether a provincial inquiry has jurisdiction over federal officers, was dismissed.

"There's many people who have been part of this process for months, and they want this resolved," he said. "It's stressful. It's on people's minds."

Blatant misconduct by officers, says lawyer

Braidwood, the retired justice leading the inquiry, has warned the officers that in preparing his final report, he will take into account allegations made during the inquiry that the officers acted improperly when they confronted Dziekanski and then lied to justify what happened.

REPORT OF THE IPPERWASH INQUIRY



- VOLUME 1 Investigation and Findings
- VOLUME 2 Policy Analysis
- VOLUME 3 Inquiry Process
- VOLUME 4 Executive Summary

The Honourable Sidney B. Linden, Commissioner

RCMP officer says prisoner was trying to kill him



Jan Geoffrey Bush, 22, was shot during a scuffle with a police officer in Houston, B.C., in October 2005.



"I couldn't get my breath, my chest was heaving, and I saw a flash of my wife's face, my parents. I remember trying to reach up with my left hand to strike him," Koester said.



Linda Bush, Jan's mother, told reporters that she didn't find Koester's story believable.

Koester was never criminally charged in the incident. Coroner's inquests are mandatory in B.C. when a death occurs in police custody.

Bush's mother
Linda Bush, Jan's mother, told reporters that she didn't find Koester's story believable.

"I don't doubt he was pretty distressed when it happened, and I would like to hope that he realized at that moment that he had taken another life," she said.

"But he says he didn't even realize Jan was dead. So if that's the case, why wasn't he calling for an ambulance?" She suggested that the officer's story appeared to be designed to explain away his decision to shoot her son.

CTV.ca News Staff

Updated: Wed, May 23 2007 10:07 AM ET

A rookie RCMP officer insists that a prisoner originally picked up for having an open beer in public was trying to kill him.

"Trying to breathe, I couldn't get air, my chest was heaving, and that's when Jan Bush said, 'Take your left breath,'" Const. Paul Koester told a packed coroner's inquest in Houston, B.C. on Wednesday. "I knew he was trying to kill me.

"I saw a flash of my wife's face, my parents. I remember trying to reach up with my left hand to strike him," Koester said.

The officer said he took out his gun, thinking it would scare Bush into stopping the assault.

He tried striking Bush and then remembered thinking, "I'm going to have to pull this trigger." He said he doesn't remember actually shooting.

A bullet struck Bush, 22, in the head.

Koester then phoned his dispatcher. The recorded call was played this morning. "You couldn't understand it," said CTV's Lisa Rossington in Houston. "He was screaming and wailing."

Koester described the situation as a "10-33," meaning an officer is in trouble. The coroner would not make the tape public.

While Koester sobbed at times during his testimony, at other times he couldn't remember anything and had to refer to a statement he had given to police over a year ago.

The inquest continued as Howard Rubin, the Bush family lawyer, began his cross-examination of Koester late Wednesday afternoon.

The October 2005 incident began when Koester pulled the millworker up outside a hockey game for having an open beer. Bush also gave him two false names.

Koester said he was still prepared to release Bush, but didn't have a "promise-to-appear" form. So he took him back to the detachment.

Bush was in near tears as he sat in an interview room at the RCMP detachment, Koester said.

He first asked another officer if he should give Bush a break, but decided to proceed after learning of an earlier Bush run-in with police.

After trying to get Bush to sign a promise to appear, Bush yelled, "why don't I just punch you in the f---ing face!" Koester testified.

Things escalated from there.

Mich Hogij, the inquest's lawyer, asked about Bush's appearance. While he had appeared to have been drinking, Koester said Bush didn't have any problems maintaining balance and was co-operative.

Koester was never criminally charged in the incident.

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With a report from CTV British Columbia's Lisa Rossington and files from The Canadian Press

CBCnews

AIR INDIA

Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182



(Tom Hanson/Canadian Press)

Air India In depth

The public inquiry into the Air India bombing wrapped up on Feb. 15, 2008, with victims requesting a formal apology from the federal government.

Lawyers for the victims' families said in their concluding statements that — given the litany of intelligence, policing and regulatory failures surrounding the worst mass murder in Canadian history — a formal apology is warranted. [More »](#)

VIDEO FEATURE
Air India
Was the government warned? (Runs 4:48)

AIR INDIA
Evidence
Plotted in plain sight?
Pt. 1| Pt. 2|

ARCHIVES
Air India
Canada's largest mass-murder

AIR INDIA
The victims
Passenger manifest from Flight 182

AIR INDIA
Documents
Document timeline hints at forewarning

Thorny issues at play in plagiarism debate

Guitarist Joe Satriani is taking on Coldplay over who created one of the British group's hits

BY MARK LEPAGE
"Well, he walked right into it. He knew what he was doing."
— John Lennon on George Harrison's "subconscious plagiarism" of his style.

Not much sympathy, then, for the accused plagiarist. What of the Coldplay?

Viva La Vida could have driven you loco in 2008. Coldplay dressed up their own mini-Billie Jean moment, when every earpiece is in simultaneous boombox harmony and you are the king of pop. The world is Your Oyster and the world is your oyster. It's a classic rock-er's fantasy in dancing you on. Except for that one bald guy with the long-overgrown mullet.

Because where the rest of the world heard Coldplay, guitarist Joe Satriani heard Satriani. He filed a lawsuit in early December, charging "substantial original portion" — specifically, the melody — of his song *I Could Fly* were copied by Coldplay's *Viva La Vida*.

Satriani's song was recorded four years ago for the album *Is There Love in Your Heart* and, unless you're a guitar wacko visiting in your basement robot, you would agree how hard it had this just

not been filed. The *Viva La Vida* album is double platinum and was in heavy global rotation. Everybody was happy and rich — so now comes the massive lawsuit.

Of that might be how Chris Martin of Coldplay would see it. If he weren't such a nice guy, wealth and success breed parasites and hatred.

Satriani sang it differently.

He told *musicradar.com* that "I felt like a danger went right through me here. I hurt so much. The second I heard it, I knew it was (my own) *I Could Fly*."

He claims he was deluged with e-mails from guitar gods asking if he'd heard the song.

"Everybody noticed the similarities between the songs. It's pretty obvious. It's as simple as that — when you listen to a song and you say, 'Wow, that's a real rip-off.'"

Where Satriani says the song was a decade in the making, and that it was a low key to his wife, he claims he tried to "send a court case with this situation. But Coldplay didn't want to talk about it. They just wanted this whole thing to go away. Maybe they figured this little guitar player guy will leave them alone after a while. I don't know."



Coldplay had a massive hit with *Viva La Vida*, but Joe Satriani says it's his.

Now the lawyers are tuning up their orchestra of litigious acoustics. It will get ugly. Who will win?

Professor David Brackett, of McGill University's Schulich School of Music, wasn't aware of the Satriani/Coldplay lawsuit, but "the issue of plagiarism has been on my mind. There's a whole branch of musicology called forensic musicology. It's a niche connection to the American Musicological Society for people who done it a lot. They find it in live-in places like Los Angeles or Nashville or New York, where there's a community of people who are doing it."

"The Satriani case is 'old school' — but filing the serial numbers off a melody. Allegedly, Brackett calls *My Sweet Lord* "probably the most famous" case in this vein, the resemblance between *My Sweet Lord* and the Chiffons' *He's So Fine* was obvious, but I remember when I first heard the George Harrison song, I knew the Chiffons song and I said 'no. Oh, he stole it.'"

Led Zeppelin was pursued by a who's who of litigants (to name a few, the owners of their publishing) for lifting lyrics from *Bring It On Home to Me* by Little Laine. In theory, the band saw itself as perpetuating the tradition. The plaintiffs saw them as white millionaires being cozy with victim copyright.

But what Satriani's chorus is four chords... would have been okay," says Brackett. "There are some basic, basic chords in music. There are some notes to the diatonic scale used in Western pop music. If you do something too weird, you become a cult artist." At some point, everyone is retooling an old melody or progression.

"And so, the way creativity is evaluated in that context is based on the precedent to the American Musicological Society for people who done it a lot. They find it in live-in places like Los Angeles or Nashville or New York, where there's a community of people who are doing it."

But after two dozen litigants, a broader picture develops. For one, the chord progressions, which based around a similar sub-tone, are different. Satriani uses a three-chord riff pattern opening with C major, while Coldplay opens obviously with four, opening with D the major in a kind of push throughout the song.

Let's consult another expert, albeit virtually. Andrew Watrous, a hacker at Watson's Creative Guitar studio, has a few video clips in which he compares the issue with a music theorist's ear. With his Strat and his computer, he breaks the songs down.

"Basically the same tempo — 136, 138 beats per minute." Thirty-nine seconds into Satriani's song, he says, "Check this out — this is where things get kinda interesting. Sound kinda familiar?" He harmonic analysis — tearing the chord changes into step/degree analysis of their positions in their relative keys — reveals a "diatonic chord substitution" in the Coldplay song, generating the same sound (and emotional effect) with subtly different chord.

"But don't look at this. I'm seeing something that really doesn't look too good for Coldplay," Watrous says. "Satriani made up of three things: We've got rhythm, melody and harmony... and in this comparison of these two songs — they share two elements of them. They would be tempo and groove. Furthermore, the chord changes. Satriani's chorus, all of the Coldplay are very similar. Watrous is somewhat distinctive the "vocal melody" in *Viva*, as "two out of three things are basically the same, so if you're gonna take this to court as Satriani is attempting to do, that's pretty poor odds" for Coldplay.

Of course, Watrous is a guitar player. Will he judge?

Viva La Vida begins to sound like a Satriani minor key anthem: riff on Satriani's more straightforward instrumental chord work which would never suggest Satriani saw dollar signs instead of notes. It's a little more than a decade ago, but I'm hearing the similarities and I'm hearing them there after in the echo chamber of his mind like they're bells.

My guess is that Coldplay stands a good chance of walking away from this. Or settling quietly out of court. Either way, it's music to a lawyer's ear.

Of course, John Lennon knew what he was talking about. It was used by Apple Records in *Let It Be* (the Beatles' "I've Got a Feeling") and *Let It Be* (the Beatles' "I've Got a Feeling").

Either that or look the same. I've seen a record cover of three songs by Coldplay, essentially reusing a half-dozen albums of covers, look *W/Out a Face*. Then he would love for repeated his demo.

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What Do These Have in Common?

- Gather *all* relevant information (interviews, recorders, physical evidence, archival info)
- Exhaust every possibility
- Assess the validity/utility of the information
- Generate and test out rival plausible explanations; remain open-minded
- No one datum is definitive; "proof" lies in the correspondence between all the data and the overall pattern or theory put forth to account for it.