|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| Meeting summary for GED730 Qualitative Research Methods (11/07/2024)Case Study Methodology, discussion with Dr Paul Cornelius |

 |
|  |  |
| **Quick recap** |
|  |  |
| The meeting involved introductions, discussions about research methodologies, and the importance of passion and context in research. The participants also discussed the use of case studies, the challenges of integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods, and the importance of identifying potential agencies for research and collaboration. The conversation ended with a reflection on the potential impact of academic research and the importance of refining research proposals. |
|  |  |
| **Next steps** |
|  |  |
| • All students to continue working on their research proposals. |
| • Alvin to review chapter 11 in "Doing Research for the Real World" on evaluating case studies. |
| • Abe to set up a meeting with Dr. Viv to discuss research ideas. |
| • Mark to schedule a meeting with Dr. Viv on Monday afternoon. |
| • All students to evaluate at least 3-4 potential agencies to work with for their research. |
| • All students to identify key leaders, projects, and champions within target agencies for their research. |
| • All students to register for January term courses. |
| • Patrick to consider how to incorporate participatory action research into his agency engagement plans. |
| • All students to refine their research topics and methodologies based on agency needs and priorities. |
| • All students to develop a plan for how to work out partnership agreements with potential partner agencies. |
|  |
|  |
| **Summary** |
|  |  |
| Introductions and Educational System GoalsThe meeting involved introductions and discussions about the participants' backgrounds, their involvement with the PhD program, and their goals.Methodology's Role in PhD ResearchPaul discussed the importance of methodology in research, particularly in the context of a PhD. He emphasized that a strong methodology is crucial for a successful dissertation and that it should be a focus from the beginning of the research process. Paul also shared his personal experience of switching from Biblical studies to intercultural studies during his PhD at Fuller, highlighting his interest in understanding more about theological education and its application in the Indian context. He encouraged the participants to make use of the available tools and software for data analysis and to focus on their methodology to ensure the success of their research.Passion and Research in Theological EducationPaul discussed the importance of passion in research, emphasizing that one must be passionate about the subject to drive the study. He shared his personal experience of researching theological education in India, highlighting the need to understand the context and literature available. He also explained his research methodology, which included conducting qualitative research, case studies, and focus groups. Paul stressed the importance of understanding the historical context, the global debate on theological education, and what is happening on the ground in India. He also mentioned his visits to India for data collection and his focus on key institutions for case studies.Pilot Tests and Research ProcessPaul, Viv, Alvin, and Gerald discussed the process of conducting pilot tests before submitting a proposal. Paul clarified that pilot tests could be done prior to proposal submission, but the results wouldn't be published. He emphasized the importance of providing context and explanations to participants, and ensuring that the pilot test doesn't influence the final data collection. Alvin raised a question about the power dynamics between the researcher and participants, to which Paul responded that the researcher should provide a clear explanation of the research purpose. Viv added that the pilot interviews wouldn't require full ethics approval since it's not being published. The team agreed that the pilot test should be conducted in a different location than the final research site.Case Studies in Research DiscussionGerald initiated a discussion about the use of case studies in research, referencing an article from the course. Paul responded, explaining his choice of case studies over other methodologies like quantitative surveys. He emphasized the importance of rich, thick data and the need for triangulation to ensure accuracy. Viv and Alvin contributed to the discussion, highlighting the potential limitations of case studies and the importance of considering cultural contexts. Paul concluded by suggesting that at least two case studies for comparison and contrast would be ideal.Research Methodologies and Validity DiscussionPaul discussed his research methodology, which involved participant observation and interviews with faculty, students, and graduates from two major institutions and one for corroboration. He emphasized the importance of demographic representation in the sample group. Viv shared her(Agh!!! AI cant determine participants gender!) research experience, which involved consultations with different groups of leaders in Auckland, focusing on city leadership and transformation. He noted the complexity of the research, which involved multiple case studies and different perspectives.Alvin and Paul discussed the validity of qualitative research, with Paul suggesting that while it may not be statistically valid, it can still provide valuable insights. Gerald raised a question about the appropriateness of separate focus groups for men and women in a community, which Paul agreed was culturally appropriate.Academic Research and Future DirectionPaul and Viv discuss the nature of academic research and its potential impact. Viv emphasizes the importance of envisioning one's future direction and aligning research accordingly. Paul shares how his PhD opened doors for leadership roles beyond his initial expectations, attributing it partly to the relevance of his research for the broader system. They highlight that a PhD serves as a marker of authority, but true influence stems from one's identity and the ability to speak meaningfully into contexts. Viv encourages the students to pursue research that could introduce new paradigms and open significant opportunities.Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative ResearchViv and Alvin discussed the challenges of integrating qualitative and quantitative research methods. Alvin expressed concerns about determining the appropriate sample size and generalizing findings to different contexts. Viv suggested that Alvin should revisit the theoretical foundations of his research and consider the concept of "thick truth" as a way to validate his findings. He recommended Alvin to read Chapter 11 in "Doing Research for the Real World" for insights on evaluating case studies. The conversation ended with Alvin acknowledging the complexity and messiness of case studies, and Viv suggesting that they might be best as a supplementary method to validate quantitative findings for Alvin inhis economics discipline.Identifying Agencies for Research CollaborationViv discussed the importance of identifying potential agencies for research and collaboration, using Patrick's agency assessment as an example. He emphasized the need to understand the agency's goals, projects, and funding processes, as well as identifying key leaders and champions within the organization. Viv also mentioned the upcoming registration for the January term, which includes courses on Qualitative Research and Foundations of Development Studies. He encouraged the team to continue refining their proposals and to consider how much time they can dedicate to their studies. |
|  |  |
| *Last edited Viv Grigg (Host) Nov 07, 2024 09:17 AM* |