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Abstract

In this book review I addressed the utilization of this method as a qualitative enquiry. I highlighted the relevance and significant gaps of the discussions of this book. In using photographs in social and historical research is another undertaking especially to researchers engaging with people, and intends to capture the very essence of experience or certain phenomena. This book realized all the important discourse on how to start the method, to structure, the processes and analysis until its important implications.

Keywords

Photographs, Social and Historical Research, Qualitative Inquiry

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Undertaking as a Concrete Enquiry: A Review of Penny Tinkler's *Using Photographs in Social and Historical Research*

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In this book review I addressed the utilization of this method as a qualitative enquiry. I highlighted the relevance and significant gaps of the discussions of this book. In using photographs in social and historical research is another undertaking especially to researchers engaging with people, and intends to capture the very essence of experience or certain phenomena. This book realized all the important discourse on how to start the method, to structure, the processes and analysis until its important implications. Keywords: Photographs, Social and Historical Research, Qualitative Inquiry

General Comments

As a novice nurse researcher, I had no regrets in reading Penny Tinkler's 2013 book, *Using Photographs in Social and Historical Research*, from cover to cover, because I found it to be an interesting book and an excellent as reference, although, its focus is on how to use photographs in social research is, though new to us in the nursing academe. I think Tinkler really depicts her experiences well and she is a good writer as "reflected" in her book. Indeed, it would be advisable for undergraduate and graduate students to use this book as reference primarily because for highlighting in using photos in social and historical researches; where, I believe that in other book references that this topic were not able to discuss this topic well, as compared to this book.

The reason why I could recommend Tinkler's book is, it entails how photos can be used in research. The usability and utilization of this type of research method marks how we can use this as approach and as an evidenced-based method and because it usage, we can also improve our nursing practice. It is a practical guide for taking photographs in engaging researches since it brings attention to key important considerations. It also brings into focus how the photographs taken can bring in the researcher's subjectivity (i.e., interest, agenda, problems, and like). Specifically for history subjects, the photos can help reconstruct community or family memories. This is also serves as a complimentary method to other methods like archival research.

The way Tinkler structures her book is highly commendable, whereas a novice researcher like me can track at the start on how we can ground or position our researches by using photos in research, the ethical and legal considerations, and the structure and processes of the interpretation, until the presentation of the implications of the intended study towards people and the society' sake.

It has been said, photos can be revealing as well as concealing; so in this vein I would have liked more photo selections placed appropriately in the book chapters. It was also looking at "colonial" agenda and colonial imaginings which is an important phase in the history of photography in third world countries.

Generally, as to form and style of the book- it was well laid out, and as handy reference. I think it would have been significant for Tinkler to use colonial pictures (i.e., you may look into nursing related pictures as examples) and to include 21st century pictures. I

don't know but I think there are many researchers, who used this type of method, and I think it matters to integrate all of these processes they used and capitalized for cross-reference in accordance on how we could conduct researches.

Specific Comments

Chapter 1: Getting Started: Using Photos in Research

It can be used in nursing research-especially with social issues affecting nursing service, and community. It is a well-grounded introduction as Tinkler applies using photos in social research, discussing the very reason why photos are a significant tool and instrument in traversing in research, how their usage addresses trajectories in research, and most especially packaging the entire topic of the book. In this chapter, it answers the five questions in getting started of using photos in research. The questions highlighted are: How do you conceptualize a photograph? Can photos constitute evidence of the social world? How do temporalities shape photo research? What can you do with photos? How do you combine methods? It is well-discussed pointing the important parts on how to engage in this type of qualitative inquiry.

In this chapter, I think not enough are, first, a well- rounded discussion of the importance of using photos in research; I cannot find enough reasons why we engage such method as a qualitative enquiry. We think it should generate and add knowledge in social issues, or it would solve problems or gives implications to practice. Though exciting and interesting to use this method, but do we assure and ensure that the researcher would really capture the meanings that can be derived from the photos. Another, what I found still lacking, should have enough explanation of the philosophical underpinnings as the foundation in qualitative research, and why we have to use this type of enquiry (but it should be based on the belief and understanding of the social researcher). It should be reiterated why such method being conceptualize and utilize as type of research method, and think of this as concrete that possibly answers the research questions. Though it answers in this chapter, Can photos constitute evidence of the social world? What I found it missing is why we have to use this, also rather it should include role of the "who" (researcher, other people involve): do they have the third eye and ear, what qualifies them, what authority they should have, and on how do we address the underpinnings. Thirdly, should include is the "sampling method", it should be indicated in this chapter, for example, how many pictures do we need to answer the research question? Is there a ceiling of the collection of pictures or when to reach the saturation point?

Chapter 2: Image Work: Five Lines of Enquiry

In this chapter, discusses the proper investigation and in utilizing photos in social research. The author suggests five lines of enquiry that provide the foundations for working with images in contemporary and historical social research. Image work, as mentioned, it applies to all people on what to do with photos, and also a feature of photo- elicitation research. The five lines that we found it relevant and illuminated by the author in the discussion of the entire chapter are: identification of basic details about a photo, scrutiny of the image, considering material evidence, contextual research, and reflecting on what kinds of meanings a photo might have. It is well- written and has comprehensive explanations, and with relevant examples.

Further, the author pointed out the four criteria by John Scott (1990) on how to assess documents and photos, included are: authenticity, credibility, representativeness, and meaning. By which, it will guide the researcher in the selection of relevant photos and documents, and scrutinize its usability in research.

Chapter 3: Studying Found Photos

This chapter describes the historical perspectives in social research, using found photos- it gives you also a guide and the processes on how to interpret this photos. The author organized the discussion around five areas of research using photos, this include: using photos to learn about the people and material culture they depict; mapping ideas about, and approaches to, aspects of the social world; researching how and why images are made, used and reused; exploring responses: popular and iconic photos; and seeking inspiration from photos. Further, it is well- written and understandable on how to use historical photos and serves as inspirations in research conduct.

Chapter 4: Autobiographical Method

In this chapter, espouse the relevant use of autobiographical as one of qualitative inquiry. The author pointed out autobiographical photo- work of the 1980s and 1990s, as continued relevant for social and historical enquiry. It answer questions such as, Are autobiographical approaches still useful today? How useful is this with research participants?

The author elaborated this method to address utilization of photos, however she highlighted in the summary not to rely solely on autobiographical method, and rather it should be used alongside interviews or photo- elicitation. Nowadays, I read several authors engaging with this kind of method, which we can ‘see- through’ the sincerity and integrity of using this method in their data, by taking into considerations on how to scrutinize the details as the empirical approach, discriminating self to avoid bias, and its interpretation of findings. Further, it is a well- challenged method that requires great efforts, intelligence and patience.

Chapter 5: Researching Photographic Practices

This chapter outlines different ways of researching photographic practices, considering the several factors involved in. These are, what aspects of photographic practices; the scope and scale of your research; the shape of your research; and the temporal issues.

Further, for more indulgent, the author explained four case studies which are significant and constructive in this chapter, these are: research seeks to identify and map patterns of photographic practices within domestic life, and she cited example like the work of Richard Chalfen. She expounds about research using photographs that traces and explains changes in the form, presentation, and use of photos over time, and cited Darren Newbury’s study as an example.

Third case study is also concerned with mapping patterns in practice, and she relied on the work of Elizabeth Edward’s study of the photographic survey movement in England 1885- 1918. Lastly, it hones in on material details but in the context of an in-depth study which probes the physical aspects of making and using personal photographic objects.

Chapter 6: Archives and Digital Resources

In this chapter elaborates non- digital photographic archives and the practices that will shape these. The author gives details by looking at archival research and reviewed specific

issues that a researchers may encounter when working in archives and large photo collections. She elaborated further about digital resources, its contribution in research and some issues.

What I found it lacking is that it should be integrated are the protocols that has to be established in the study especially engaging photos influenced and abuse by technology use. Although in the summary of this chapter alert researcher's use of digital resources should be dealt as critical treatment and keen in attending as to how these images being selected for inclusion.

Chapter 7: Generating Photos: Researchers

This chapter examines how researchers can generate their own photos as part of research project. Further, the author expounds the integral approach in three ways, namely: researchers can take photos to generate visual data; photos are taken to facilitate interviews; and photos are taken as an aide- memoire, that it may be incorporated into a research diary.

The author reiterated on how researchers taking photos to explore aspects of life and material culture in the past and overtime; she pointed out on how to engage with the process, change, and continuity.

Chapter 8: Generating Photos: Research Participants

This chapter discussed the main types of research projects in which participants may generate photographs and consider why we ask participants to take pictures for research purposes. I found relevant, though we have the sole responsibility and accountability in engaging participants this type of endeavour, which the main reason is to capture the essence of the data, and give them the freedom to generate relevant and necessary pictures. The author further, gives guidance to readers how to approach the photos through image analysis, importance of contextualizing, and ways to incorporate participants' accounts of their photos into the investigation.

Chapter 9: Photo-interviews: Listening to Talk about Photos

These chapters entail the methods in autobiography and the use of photos as research methods. In doing so, Tinkler shows us as readers how to employ this process directly, but she also warns how to be very careful using photos as one method only. Along these lines, she further advise us in using this method solely would mean "not" enough as a method of enquiry, so, rather she points out using other qualitative methods, considering on how to establish the rigor and trustworthiness of an enquiry.

Chapter 10: Ethical Issues and Legalities

I really appreciated Tinkler for discussing the ethical issues and legalities pertinent to using photos in research. I found out that she tackled the issues well and able to grasp the importance of ethical considerations in every social and historical research, this regardless of the methods we have to employ.

What I found it lacking maybe is the process on how to obtain an (institutional) ethics review and approval, and more importantly, to establish consent especially in historical researches, by which it will be dealt as retrospective process. Another, which I found useful is a relevant sample of informed consent. Generally, the discussion about ethics and legalities is well-written and provide as excellent suggestions in the academe, more importantly to

researchers' interest on this type of social researches (dealing with peoples' lives, social issues, and culture, and the like).

Hopefully, my observations and reiterations give an appreciation and justice for Tinkler's book as a scholarly work. Also I do trust you that you found my comments/ observations in improving this book very noteworthy, but overall, Tinkler has made an excellent contributor to this research topic and her work and as well as demonstrating her experiences made it as an exceptional reference in (our) nursing academe.

Reference

Tinkler, P. (2013). *Using photographs in social and historical research*. London, UK: Sage.

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