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The Basics and Ethics of Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Design: A Book Review

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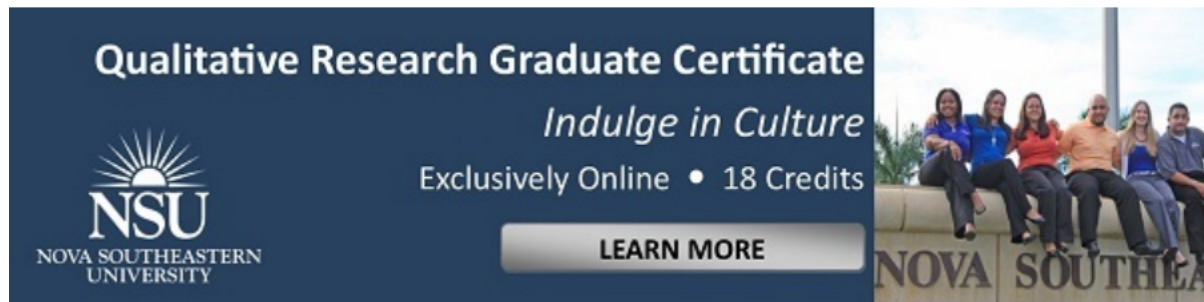
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Abstract

The following is a succinct review of the book: *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches*, written by Patricia Leavy and published in 2017. This review covers topics such as the book's successful depiction of the basic concepts encompassed in research design for the social and behavioral sciences, the setup of the chapters, discussions about the author's inclusion of *Review Stops* interweaved in each chapter, as well as the author's discussions of social justice and ethical considerations for each topic explained in the book. In addition, there are brief notes on the author's expertise in the field of research and a list of her other published works. Lastly, this review offers a recommendation to readers, students and professors alike, to consider this title in their journey towards understanding and/or explaining the basics of quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, arts-based and community-based participatory research design methods.

Keywords

Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Design, Quantitative Research Methods, Qualitative Research Methods, Mixed Research Methods, Arts-Based Research Methods, Community-based Research Methods, Review Stops, Social Justice, Ethics in Research

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The Basics and Ethics of Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Design: A Book Review

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*The following is a succinct review of the book: *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches*, written by Patricia Leavy and published in 2017. This review covers topics such as the book's successful depiction of the basic concepts encompassed in research design for the social and behavioral sciences, the setup of the chapters, discussions about the author's inclusion of Review Stops interweaved in each chapter, as well as the author's discussions of social justice and ethical considerations for each topic explained in the book. In addition, there are brief notes on the author's expertise in the field of research and a list of her other published works. Lastly, this review offers a recommendation to readers, students, and professors alike, to consider this title in their journey towards understanding and/or explaining the basics of quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, arts-based and community-based participatory research design methods. Keywords: Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Design, Quantitative Research Methods, Qualitative Research Methods, Mixed Research Methods, Arts-Based Research Methods, Community-based Research Methods, Review Stops, Social Justice, Ethics in Research*

Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches is a book written by Patricia Leavy and published by the Guilford Press in 2017. Leavy has proven to be an expert researcher and writer with more than twenty book publications (Leavy, 2017a), some of which include fiction and non-fiction titles such as: *Low-Fat Love Stories* (2017); *The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research* (2014); *Handbook of Emergent Research Methods* (2008), among others.

This book is the perfect resource guide for social and behavioral sciences undergraduate and graduate students looking to understand the basics of the different types of research design that are currently being used in the field of academia and research. Leavy is successful at breaking down each type of design to an elementary level that is easy to understand and leaves the interested reader wanting to know more details about any given research method. In addition, interspersed in each chapter are what the author titled as a "Review Stop." These *Review Stops*, as stated in the preface to the book, "are an opportunity to pause, recap, and make sure the information has been processed before continuing" (Leavy, 2017b, p. ix). Perhaps this is a feature most commonly found in textbooks not of a graduate level. However, for a beginner researcher, in quest of learning the ins and outs of the different social and behavioral sciences research design methods, a stop to review the dense information serves as an explicit break in reading, to assimilate the information presented in a different way than us graduate students are used to with most other graduate readings.

As a PhD student working on my dissertation proposal, I have been in search of a book that delineates the basics of a wide array of methodologies. Other more established books and authors of research methods limit the reader to information about quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. In this book, Leavy not only summarizes the basics of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods formats of researching, but she also goes beyond these basics types and

expands on the arts-based and community-based participatory research methods, which is unique to this book.

Another outstanding feature of this book is that Leavy intertwines ethics and social justice into every chapter. In fact, there is a chapter dedicated solely to the ethics of research. Leavy also offers the reader an opportunity to reflect on the issues of social justice that influence the researcher's ethical considerations associated with every step of any given research proposal. Each chapter includes exercises and resources pertinent to the content discussed within the chapter. Also included in each chapter are various real-world and current, up-to-date tips and suggestions from experts in the respective methods regarding conducting that type of research. Like any brilliant text that seeks to educate its readers, this book has bold-faced concepts as the readers immerse in the text; and as an added bonus, a glossary at the end of the book. Lastly, Leavy offers guidance on how to construct a research question, conduct literature review and write a research proposal for each of the five different methodologies presented in the book.

From the perspective of a doctoral student looking to expand my knowledge of the different types of research methods available to me in this dissertation journey, this book provides an insight into the world of: quantitative, qualitative, mixed, arts-based, and community-based participatory research methods. It is with the utmost humility I recommend this book to any student interested in conducting research or simply learning about the different methodologies and the ethics and social justice issues considerations for these five research methods explored in the text. Faculty looking to adopt an up-to-date textbook to ~~adopt~~ for research methods courses, will find this book to be an invaluable source of information.

References

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