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## Thinking Qualitatively Methods of Mind: A Review

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### Abstract

The following is a review of the book: *Thinking Qualitatively: Methods of Mind* written by Johnny Saldaña and published in 2015. The book unfolds from the more traditional qualitative research ways of thinking and moves toward the abstract. Learning objectives begin each chapter and end with a summary of key points and exercises designed to stretch the mind by applying the concepts discussed. Throughout each chapter, reflection exercises titled “For Your Mental Rolodex” provide opportunities for additional concept application. Each chapter builds upon the previous chapter forming a solid foundation for how to think qualitatively. Students, instructors, novice, and seasoned qualitative researcher will appreciate the thoughtful organization of the book. The book is an excellent addition to the qualitative researcher’s library.

### Keywords

Qualitative Research, Qualitative Inquiry

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### Acknowledgements

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## Thinking Qualitatively Methods of Mind: A Review

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Published in 2015, Johnny Saldaña’s book *Thinking Qualitatively: Methods of Mind* is an excellent addition to the Saldaña titles *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers* (Saldaña, 2016) and *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook* (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014) which he co-authored. As a novice qualitative researcher, I found *Thinking Qualitatively: Methods of Mind* to be thoughtfully organized and written to appeal to students of qualitative inquiry as well as novice and seasoned qualitative researchers.

Each chapter begins with learning objectives and a summary outlining each way of thinking presented. Throughout each chapter, segments titled “For Your Mental Rolodex” are offered at the end of each way of thinking discussion. These segments are designed to assist the reader to delve deeper into a specific style of thinking by applying the concepts discussed. Each chapter ends with a closure summing up main points. A list of individual and group exercises is included to apply each chapter’s way of thinking further. Instructors of qualitative research will find the activities helpful for class assignments and discussion.

For those readers like myself who do not read a book’s preface, they will discover this is worthwhile reading. The preface discusses how the book is organized to understand what the book has to offer. In this section, Saldaña states the core frustration of instructors and professors of research in how to teach students to think. He further explains that coding and relationships between categories are mastered yet students do not take the next steps in discovering higher levels of meaning, or insight, in the phenomena being studied. This book was written to assist the student, novice researcher, or seasoned researcher in developing insight by thinking in different ways.

The chapters flow from the concrete, or traditional, methods of analytical thought to the abstract ways of thinking. The first chapter is noted as an introduction and delves into a review of qualitative research thinking regarding conceptual frameworks, theories, epistemology, heuristics, and the use of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS). This chapter is an excellent refresher for novice and seasoned researchers yet very relatable to the student. Chapter Two titled *Thinking Analytically* begins the traditional ways of thinking in qualitative research laying the foundation for the subsequent chapters. Each chapter builds upon each other providing an intricate network and layering of ways of thinking. Saldaña also refers to concepts previously discussed as the book unfolds linking chapter concepts providing a thorough discussion in how to think qualitatively.

This book lays the foundation in how to think qualitatively necessary for coding and qualitative data analysis. Unfortunately, this book was published after I completed my qualitative doctoral dissertation research. Had I read this book before my research study, I would have gained the insight needed to grasp the nuances of coding and theme development fully. Based on my experience, I strongly suggest students, novice, and seasoned qualitative researchers read this title before Saldaña's other books. Doing so will provide a solid foundation to think qualitatively. I also recommend instructors of qualitative research use this text as required reading for students as they begin their journey in qualitative research.

### References

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