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Abstract

I provide a short though robust review of the book, *Design Thinking and Social Construction*, to make sure you do not miss an opportunity to ignite and infuse meaningful new energy into designing your research.

Keywords

social construction, design thinking, qualitative research

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“Not your typical book about qualitative research”: A Review of Camargo-Borges and McNamee’s *Design Thinking and Social Construction*

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I provide a short though robust review of the book, *Design Thinking and Social Construction*, to make sure you do not miss an opportunity to ignite and infuse meaningful new energy into designing your research.

Keywords: social construction, design thinking, qualitative research

Introduction

This is not your typical book about qualitative research. In this book you will not find the nuances of the various qualitative approaches, but this is a book that has affinity with the field of qualitative research and can be a guide into conducting solid and collaborative qualitative inquiry that is designed to “be future-forming and practice/action oriented.” If you need renewal or freshness in your research planning or need greater freedom in making your research even more relevant, I will strongly suggest reading this book to activate your creative juices. The illustrations will ignite your thinking as substantially as the words.

Review

“The central theme of *Design Thinking and Social Construction* is to highlight the interconnectedness of ourselves and the ecosystem as we create knowledge” (p. 10). The emphasis for making research decisions comes from integrating “the philosophy of social constructionism with the attributes and principles of design thinking” (p. 11).

Many of you, our *TQR* authors, are charged with solving significant social dilemmas in your countries and settings. My hope is that reading this book will help you see the value in a stance that: “Research is about creating possibilities rather than uncovering truths” (p. 35). This book, I believe, will influence ways of tailoring the research design to attend to process and context, build in transformation in the process of the study, and feel excitement with new ways of going forward (you will find many exemplars of design processes that will stir your imagination) more thoroughly.

In this book you will also notice some significant language shifts—from data collection to data “generation” and from data analysis to data “meaning-making.” Just think of the implications in your own work should you shift from data collection to the co-generation of data with your participants. Just think of the implications should you move from emergent data analysis to what meanings are created from the data generation and by extension what differences and innovations are possible.

I would like to remind you that not all our research decision-making, even if it is new to us, is completely original so we must give credit to the articulators of the various qualitative methodologies. But hopefully we are twisting and stretching methodology with each project. This book can help with this kind of bending in designing.

Conclusion

I must admit that this book is written by my friends and colleagues who I think are amazing people and brilliant thinkers. I sincerely hope you will order it, read it, and enjoy it, and let the magical dust of *Design Thinking and Social Construction* fall upon you. May your colleagues see the differences and possibilities you help to bring forward to make our world a better place!

Check out the following illustration to see an overview of the book and a sample of the outstanding illustrations.

Figure 1



Note. Created by Lara Krenzinger, the illustrator of the book as it appears on page 188.

References

Camargo-Borges, C., & McNamee, S. (2022). *Design thinking & social construction: A practical guide to innovation in research*. BIS Publishers.

Author Note

Sally is Professor Emerita from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. She serves as a Taos Institute Board Member and co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Qualitative Report*. Her academic specialty has been engaging in and teaching social work and family therapy practice and she is also invested in qualitative inquiry as it relates to practice. Together with Dan Wulff, she has developed Research as Daily Practice to help practitioners utilize and develop new knowledge based on a systematic examination of their practice questions that is in line with the ways in which they practice. Please direct correspondence to calgary_home@shaw.ca.

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