

Qualitative Health Research Group Postgraduate Methods Challenge

Building on the success of last year's postgraduate methods challenge, we are holding another challenge seminar. Three PhD students will present and critique their chosen research methodology and reflect on possible alternative approaches. Each speaker will present for 15 minutes, then the audience will have the opportunity to comment on and challenge the presenters as a panel, chaired by Dr Jon Warren. This year's presenters are:

Paul Crampton

(School of Medicine, Pharmacy & Health)

I am exploring learning opportunities for 4th year medical students during an innovative difficult and deprived area placement. Semi-structured interviews will be used to explore the experiences of students and stakeholders during the Durham University pilot programme. I will be using a framework analysis to interpret the data and provide recommendations for future practice.

Frances Thirlway

(Department of Anthropology & School of Medicine, Pharmacy & Health)

I am carrying out an ethnographic study of the use of tobacco in a former mining village in the North East of England. My methods include participant observation, life story narratives, family trees, a local history school project and archival research. I would describe the collection of life stories as my main methodology, but largely in the form of interrupted conversations rather than formal interviews.

Vicky McGowan

(Department of Anthropology)

My talk will discuss my attempt to conduct focus groups and, how in hindsight, semi-structured interviews yielded a more in-depth view of the school cooks experiences of policy change. After the first interviews I realised the women may not have revealed as much information in a focus group due to regional variation in school meal provision and their different levels of confidence.

Thursday 6th June, 12-2pm Wolfson Research Institute, F009

As usual we will begin at 12 noon with lunch and refreshments; please RSVP to Jude Walsh (j.m.walsh@durham.ac.uk) by 29th May 2013 to confirm your attendance.