
Contents

- List of figures ix
Introduction xi
Acknowledgments xvii
- 1. Theory and data: a hermeneutic approach 1**
- What is theory? 2
 - Interpretation in everyday life 5
 - Symbolic interactionism and grounded theory 7
 - Deductive theory building 7
 - Simplistic inductive theory building 10
 - Grounded theory: a sophisticated model 12
 - Induction, deduction, abduction 13
 - Postmodernism 15
 - Feminist standpoint methodology 20
 - Hermeneutics 23
 - Summary reflections 29
 - Further reading 31
- 2. Politics, rigour and ethics 33**
- The policy process 34
 - Examples of applied qualitative research 39
 - Feminism and participatory action research 43
 - The value of qualitative methods 44
 - The unavoidably political consequences of research 46
 - Rigour and ethics 50
 - Summary reflections 57
 - Further reading 58
- 3. Data analysis during data collection 60**
- Integrating data collection and data analysis 61
 - Techniques for integrating analysis and collection 64
 - Team meetings and peer debriefing 65
 - Checking interpretations with participants 68
 - Transcribing, reading and coding early data 70
 - Journals and memos 71
 - Sampling and saturation 74

- Including participants in all aspects of the research 75
- Summary reflections 77
- Further reading 78

4. Coding data and interpreting text: methods of analysis 80

- Content analysis 82
- Coding in thematic analysis and grounded theory 86
- Narrative analysis 95
- Cultural studies and semiotics 101
- Summary reflections 109
- Further reading 110

5. Computer-assisted qualitative data analysis 111

- Computer-assisted content analysis 113
- Interpretive analysis 115
- When to use a computer package 116
- Coding 121
- Retrieval 127
- Choosing a CAQDAS program 129
- Learning to use a CAQDAS program 130
- Potential problems with CAQDAS 132
- Summary reflections 135
- Further reading 136

6. Writing about qualitative data 138

- The process of writing: time, reflection and rhythm 140
- Identify your audience 143
- Writing styles 144
- The use of exemplars 147
- Objectivity and the representational crisis 148
- Experimental writing 151
- Including the personal experience of the researcher 153
- The ethics of writing about others 156
- The political implications of categorising people 157
- Academic publications and community reporting 160
- Summary reflections 161
- Further reading 162

Concluding reflections 164

Bibliography 167

Index 183