
Evening Lecture Prof. Nigel Fielding

20 Years of Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis

Abstract

The talk will provide some biographical background about my engagement with qualitative software from the 1980s, when Ray Lee and I coined the term 'CAQDAS' (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis). I will talk about my development as a qualitative researcher before computers were on the scene and my early views about computers 'intruding' into the craft of qualitative research. I will discuss the early (and angry) debates about CAQDAS, some of the foolish claims that were made, and the way things actually worked out. I will profile the struggles and personal investment that many have made to bring the CAQDAS field its present resources of training, support and methodological refinement, and I will close by looking at the hallmarks of the present and future: the data deluge, the new affordances of qualitative software, and how citizen research is set to democratise social research using tools such as qualitative software.



Biography

Nigel Fielding grew up in the United States of America but returned to Great Britain for his university education, where he took an undergraduate degree in Sociology at the University of Sussex and a Masters degree in Sociology at the University of Kent. He then lectured at Hendon Police College. His doctoral research was the first study carried out on the National Front, an extreme Right, racist political party. The study was based on covert participant observation. Nigel Fielding then taught in the School of Law at Ealing College of Higher Education and the Department of Social Administration at the LSE. In 1978 he joined the University of Surrey as a lecturer in criminology. He was promoted to a personal Chair in Sociology in 1995. From 1985 to 1998 he was editor of the Howard Journal of Criminal Justice and a member of the Council of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Selected Publications

Fielding, N. (2012). **The Diverse Worlds and Research Practices of Qualitative Software**. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 13(2), Art. 12.

Fielding, N. & Cisneros-Puebla, C. A. (2009). **CAQDAS-GIS Convergence. Toward a New Integrated Mixed Method Research Practice?** *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 3, 349.

Fielding, N. G., Lee, R. M. & Blank, G. (Hrsg.). (2008). **The Sage Handbook of Internet and Online Research Methods**. Thousand Oaks u.a.: Sage.

Fielding, N. G. & Lee, R. M. (1998). **Computer analysis and qualitative research**. Thousand Oaks u.a.: Sage.