

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Qualitative Research Methods

Thomas G. Reio Jr., School of Education and Human Development, Florida International University, Miami, FL, USA

As a follow-up to the recently published Quantitative Research Design and Method issue of the *International Journal of Adult Vocational Education and Technology*, we present eight articles regarding the latest thinking in arguably some of the most important qualitative research designs and methods used to support current applied social science research. The articles range from phenomenological, qualitative case study, autoethnographical and industrial ethnographical research methods to grounded theory, historical, integrative literature reviews and action research approaches. The authors of each article define the method/design, delineate its link to answering certain kinds of research questions, and discuss its suitable research application, with accompanying concrete examples. Data collection techniques related to employing the design and method are also presented. Finally, each author attempts to clarify how the method/design contributes to theory-building or at least knowledge-building efforts in applied social science research. The social science research we are referring to in the issue is framed in general within workplace or organizational settings.

The overarching goal of each paper is to introduce the reader to the latest clear thinking in qualitative research designs and methods and illuminate their fitting use when conducting front-line, applied social science research. As with the seven papers published in the recent issue related to Quantitative Research Designs and Methods, this collection of eight papers answers the call for providing researchers with the precise information necessary for designing and carrying out novel and consequential advanced research, especially in organizational settings. My sincerest hope is you will find this collection of papers a thoughtful starting point for designing and implementing well-designed, solid and tenable research that will support moving your respective fields forward theoretically, conceptually, empirically and practically.

Thomas G. Reio, Jr.
Guest Editor
IJAVET

Dr. Thomas G. Reio, Jr. is Professor of Adult Education and Human Resource Development and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the School of Education and Human Development at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He is Associate Editor of Human Resource Development Quarterly, immediate past Editor of New Horizons in Adult Education and Human Resource Development and former Editor of Human Resource Development Review. His research concerns curiosity and risk-taking motivation, workplace socialization, workplace incivility, and workplace learning. His work has been published in leading journals in education, business, and psychology.