

EJBRM Volume 19 issue 1, 2021 – March 2021

Editorial by the Editor; Ann Brown

Invitation to our readers to send in their opinions and views by letter to the editor

We want to hear from you. We are always interested in well-argued points of view. All your letters will be read by the Associate Editors and selected ones will be published in a later issue.

The research papers in this issue address the following subjects:

- A discussion of the implications of the philosophy of H.Dooyeweerd for research methods used in the various disciplines (Andrew Basdon)
- Sampling methods for Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) (Adeyemi Adebayo and Barry Ackers)
- Two papers on teaching research methods - one on the importance of the skills of reflexivity (Anna Kimberley) and the other assessing the quality of research in Master's dissertations using case methods (Miguel Varela, Paula Lopes and Rosa Rodrigues)

The papers

Dooyeweerd's Philosophy

Andrew Basdon is concerned about the lack of mutual understanding and respect that researchers can display for researchers in different disciplines. The conditions and research questions of importance in one discipline often seem to have little connection with other disciplines. This can lead to inappropriate criticism of the research methods applied. Basdon presents Dooyeweerd's philosophy of aspects as a way to understand the apparent contradictions between disciplines' research methods.

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

Qualitative Comparative Analysis, developed by social science researchers, has been growing in popularity for business researchers. The quality of the results obtained are critically dependent on the data sampling methods used. Adeyemi Adebayo and Barry Ackers argue for a move away from the simplicity of purposive and convenience sampling, to one of the more robust forms of theoretical sampling.

Teaching Research Methods

Anna Kimberley makes the case that undergraduate business students need to acquire critical reflexivity skills, both for research and business life. She describes an innovative pedagogical approach to developing these skills using narrative analysis of the data generated by reflective narratives created by the students. The results achieved are described in depth.

Miguel Varela, Paula Lopes and Rosa Rodrigues are concerned with assessing the methodological rigour of the research work using the case method at postgraduate level. They discuss the requirements of the case method. They use these criteria to focus on the analysis of masters dissertations defended in a Portuguese higher education institution. Their conclusions are cautiously optimistic!

The papers

- Understanding the relationships between fields of research (Andrew Basdon)
- Sampling theoretically for comparison (Adeyemi Adebayo and Barry Ackers)
- Reflexivity as a vital skill for future researchers and professionals (Anna Kimberley)
- Rigour in the management case study method: a study on master's dissertations (Miguel Varela, Paula Lopes and Rosa Rodrigues)