Considering Qualitative Evaluation

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Overview

Talk 1: Setting the stage: qualitative
Talk 2: Observation as a skill
Activity 1: Practicing observation
Activity 2: Interviewing 1
Activity 3: Interviewing 2
Talk 3: Interviewing as a skill
Activity 4: Interviewing 3
Panel: open discussion
Talk 4: In summary
what have we learnt?
that empirical work starts with a question
we need to understand how our question relates to existing research
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in contrast

in agreement

extension
working with the trade-offs

no perfect methods
important to judge a method by its own criteria
we have focused on **realism** and **qualitative** data gathering methods
data collection is a skill
practice observing
practice interviewing
practice taking notes
all empirical methods require rigor
apply appropriate rigor to appropriate method
these skills will also help in analysis
Summary

• carefully choose method to fit the research goal
• consider trade-offs between realism, generalizability and precision
• borrow and adapt methods from other fields
• conduct research with rigor specific to the chosen method
• publish sufficient details
• make claims appropriate to the chosen method
'Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted’