

Does anyone else think that this class should have been the first research-based class we took for this program? Having written two chapters now without the focus that Merriam and Tisdell have put forth seems to be counterintuitive to everything we were already trying to do.

I feel like in Chapter 4, Merriam and Tisdell really lay out the blueprint for conducting this research and completing this dissertation. Laying out easy steps:

- 1) Topic
- 2) Research Problem
- 3) Theoretical Framework
- 4) Lit Review
- 5) Sample
- 6) Conduct and write up findings

I have decided that to best address my problem in practice, I am going to be interviewing employees to see their experiences. The target of my PoP will clearly be the people who I am trying to ultimately understand. With that, the theoretical design of the dissertation will serve as the "underlying structure, the scaffolding or frame of your study" (Merriam and Tisdell, 2016, p. 85). I think that this is where the "subjective" nature of qualitative research comes into play. If you have a sample size and 1 or two of the research participants skew the data, you can omit them to change the final outcome. I get that the point of the research is to stake a claim and go for it, but I think that is why so many people are so leary of such research...if you can skew any data set or any sampling to reflect what you want it to show...how trustworthy is the actual research?

This theoretical framework directs/guides/informs the study and is developed/chosen based upon the angle that the researcher wants to focus on (Merriam and Tisdell, 2016, p. 85). This really is the lens/filter in which all of the information gathered or collected is processed through. Can grounded theory use the theory they are trying to prove as their theoretical framework?

Merriam, S. B., & Tisdell, E. J. (2016). *Qualitative research: A guide to design and implementation* (4th ed.). Jossey-Bass.

Based upon Merriam and Tisdell, it sounds like the sampling is considered a "case" or "bounded system." Merriam and Tisdell say, "You must first selected the case to be studied...you will need to do some sampling within the case" (2016, p. 99). Does this mean that most qualitative studies really are "case studies" in their most basic form?