



Enhancing
Postgraduate
Environments

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My methodology and methods

This worksheet is designed to help you articulate, for yourself, what your research design is, why you have chosen this design, and how your chosen methods, or tools, will assist you in generating data. There are also questions around which data, how much data and how you could or would analyse that data. You should use the additional recommended resources, as well as your other reading in this area, to assist you.

This can form a basis for starting a methods chapter in your thesis, and can also be shared with your supervisor/s, should you need further assistance with this section.

1. What is my overarching research design and why is this appropriate for my study?

[E.g. is it qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods? Causal, exploratory, case study etc?]

2. What methods will I be using to generate data, and why have I chosen these?

[E.g. surveys, interviews, questionnaires, document analysis, etc]

3. What data will I need, how much will I need, and where will I go to find or obtain it?

[TIP: think as pragmatically as you can here - remember you have limited time for this project, and possibly limited or no funding. Go for the most realistic and practical option, so that it is feasible within your time and budget]

4. How will I analyse this data? What aspects of the theory for my study can be turned into analytical tools, or methods?

[E.g. if you are using Activity Theory, how would you make your data part of an activity cycle in analysis? Would you need additional tools for analysing the data? If you are doing a statistical analysis, how will you set this up and communicate its purpose to your readers?]