

**Minutes of First meeting of Qualitative Researchers in Accounting network (QualRAN) –  
a Special Interest Group of AFAANZ**

**Meeting held at Sydney Hilton Hotel, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 11am.**

**Present:** Victor Borg (Monash), Paul Collier (Monash), Ken Crofts (CSU), James Guthrie (Sydney), Jill Hooks (Massey), Kerry Jacobs (ANU), Ralph Kober (Monash), Deryl Northcott (AUT), Grant Samkin (Waikato),

**Apologies:** Ruvendra Nandan (Monash), Lee Parker (UniSA), Robyn Pilcher (Curtin), Carolyn Stringer (Otago), Gillian Vesty (Melbourne)

**Election of SIG Officers:**

Chair            Paul Collier (Monash) [paul.collier@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:paul.collier@buseco.monash.edu.au)

Vice-Chair     Deryl Northcott (AUT) [deryl.northcott@aut.ac.nz](mailto:deryl.northcott@aut.ac.nz)

Secretary      Ralph Kober (Monash) [Ralph.kober@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Ralph.kober@buseco.monash.edu.au)

**Discussion**

Discussions were led by Kerry Jacobs on research training and research supervision and James Guthrie on publishing qualitative research. The following were the main outcomes of discussions:

The next SIG meeting would be prior to the AFAANZ conference in Adelaide. The SIG will meet for a half day, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009 morning, prior to the conference commencement (which will allow members to attend other SIG meetings held on the Saturday). The meeting would combine research methods presentations with discussant-led presentations of members' papers (following the APIRA model). We would also explore ways in which the SIG could work with the AFAANZ doctoral consortium.

QualRAN would adopt a facilitative model, making members aware of various workshops and courses, conferences, journal special issues, grants, overseas visitors, etc. of interest to qualitative researchers, rather than duplicate such offerings.

Comments on work in progress would be facilitated. Members wishing to get comments on draft qualitative research papers should send their request to the Secretary Ralph Kober (email [Ralph.kober@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Ralph.kober@buseco.monash.edu.au)) who will arrange for reviews. This process will also provide the opportunity for less experienced researchers to get practice at reviewing others' work.

Members of the group could also develop 'Practice Notes' e.g. how to supervise qualitative PhD candidates.

A membership list will be circulated to all members with their research interests to facilitate collaborative research and mentoring.

AFAANZ Secretariat will be approached to see if the SIG can have a separate web page and/or discussion board for announcements.

There was a need for better research training for qualitative researchers, from selecting a topic through to getting published; qualitative research philosophy and methods; alternative theoretical frameworks; training in how to review papers; mixed methods research (encouraging co-authorship and inter/multi-disciplinary research); etc. Over time, a co-operative research training model could be developed so that a consortium of universities offered residential courses which were integrated, eventually leading to credit points for qualitative research that were accepted by other universities.

The SIG would carry out a short survey of members to determine their research interests, research training needs of members and their PhD students, at what is currently being taught at their universities. We would also use editors' feedback on raising the standard of qualitative research submissions to journals to develop training courses.

Future challenges:

A discussion of possible emerging areas for qualitative research also took place: hot topics e.g. carbon trading; new methods e.g. action research; cross-disciplinary research; engaging with practitioners and more normative approaches; new theoretical approaches; and training/support/advice re ARC qualitative research applications.