

Name of collection

Video 2 - Supervisor

Tyrrell Golding:

I think it's about, again, how clearly the student has articulated, why they're adopting the particular methods that they do. I'm not personally particularly wedded to any one particular research methodology. I think it's about, what are you trying to study? What are you trying to find out? So therefore, what research questions are you asking? And what is the best methodology for answering those research questions? And that has to be thought through, so that whether it's in your proposal or in your interview, you can articulate that to the person that you are being interviewed by. And you can defend if you like the decisions that you've made.

But it may be that there are researchers already working in the field in some way, shape, or form that you've come across, and they've already adopted a methodology that makes sense for you to adopt a similar sense, a similar approach, sorry. Or it may be because somebody's already researched something in one way that you think it might be useful to do a deeper dive. So, it might be something that you've come across that's a quantitative approach. And you want to do something that's more qualitative to understand the same or similar research questions but from a different way.

I think it is very important to have a clear methodology. I think it like all good professional practice it's important to be open to challenge discussion, particularly as you participate in the interview. And you read more widely that methodology may change over time. I think if a proposer were a methodology was weak or unclear, it may well be that that's something that we would follow up interview. I think if it's a methodology that we were concerned in some ways was unethical that would be something more concerning.

Particularly, in my area for example, which is childhood and youth, I would want to be seeing that the proposal is really clear about taking into consideration appropriate research methods for working with children and young people. Probably the more you can read in terms of just research methods, social research, or educational research depending on the area that you're exploring and understand the different methodologies, I think it's also very useful to-- to read lots of research articles about similar kind of studies.

And get a sense of how those methodologies are described, how they are enacted. There are things that you can adopt, and you can use those as examples of why you're adopting that methodology for this particular research application. And as I say, for me it's really important that this is considered at this stage, but it doesn't tie you in to that methodology necessarily when you enter into the doctoral program. Things can and do and should change as you study. But it's about that considered thoughtful approach at the beginning.

If other researchers have adopted a methodology even if it's in a to study a different topic but maybe with a similar age group for example, that's a good guide that might be an appropriate methodology to adopt. For my own doctoral study, my methodology changed quite a lot over the process of my early thinking. And so ultimately, I adopted a survey, my research explores motivational theory.

So, I explored what motivates adults to volunteer in work with young people in England. So, in England, was about youth work practice and youth work policy being very different over the four nations of the United Kingdom. So, the big society initiative was an England based initiative, so it was important to put my research into within a policy framework. So, it was being really clear and that's being boundaried and being achievable. and coherent sort of approach that I was talking about earlier.

There are a series of academics, actually in psychology who have done a lot of work around motivational theory. They had developed a survey that they've been published both in terms of using this survey but published many articles about how they developed with survey, and its reliability, et cetera. So, it felt very appropriate reading that literature to adopt using that survey as part of mine methodology in order that I can compare that the volunteers that participated in my research with other areas. So, they that's been used to understand why one insisted to be firefighters in America. We could compare two populations it should be really interesting.

But was also interested in understanding the current kind of motivation for volunteering in particular types of work with young people. So, I interviewed two volunteers who were working with young people in notions of identity, notions of geography, and notions or around a particular hobby, and I also explored a focus group with some volunteers who worked with younger children to understand what were their boundaries or what were the barriers for them thinking that they might go on to volunteer with teenagers, with young people.

So, I was able to then take those focus groups and actually use a mixed methods approach to thematically analyse both what the focus group findings were and compare them to the survey. The survey identified six motivating factors. And I was able to identify some other particular motivating factors to work with young people in particular, but also some barriers to

motivation to engage with work volunteering with young people. So yeah, that was a mixed methods approach and I slightly adopted and adapted other people's work. I was able to identify some small conclusions, but they were interesting ones from my field of practice.