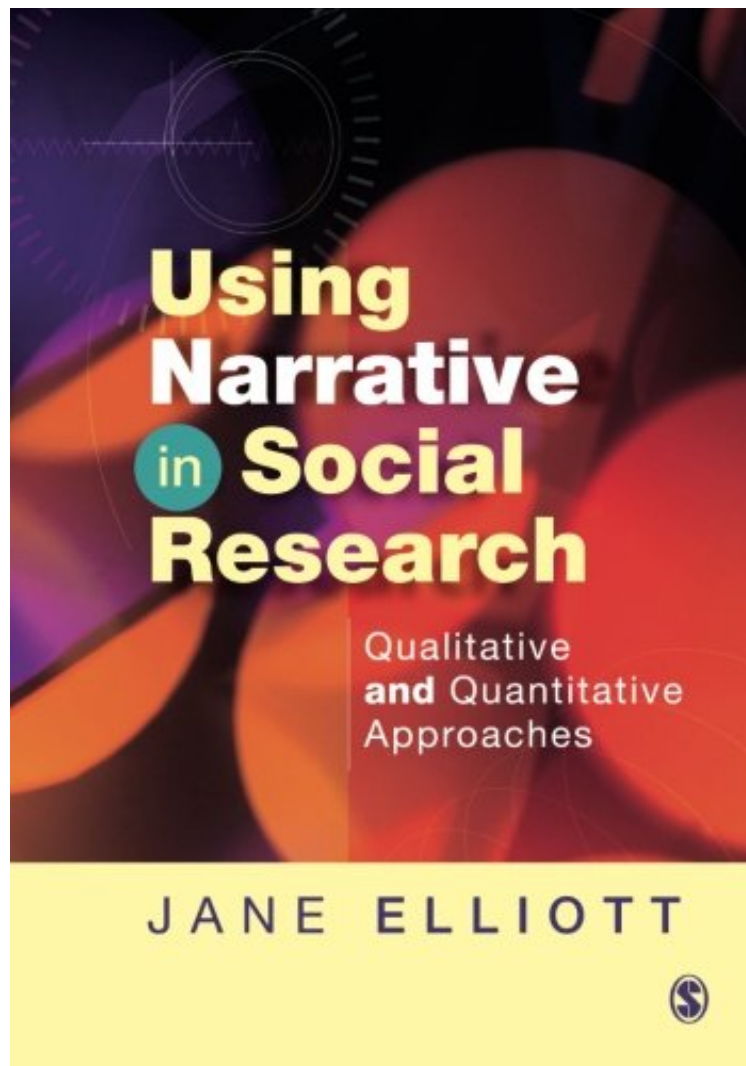


Using Narrative in Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches

Jane Elliott

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Jane Elliott : Using Narrative in Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Using Narrative in Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great introduction By Frank Markow Elliott's book is good for those wanting an intro and overview of narrative psych, its theory and practice. It is readable and engaging. Her chapter on ethics is great. It is a much simpler approach than "Narratives in Social Science Research" by Barbara Czarniawska. Czarniawska is much more technical and writes as an authority herself (which she is). Elliott appeals to other seminal

thinkers and brings many sources together nicely. My only criticism (and of course this may be a positive depending on what you are looking for) was the extensive chapters on developing narrative out of quantitative materials. I was expecting help with coding procedure, intercoder reliability analysis, etc, but she does not address these. Instead, she addresses a very obscure research approach which tries to look at quantitative data and look at it longitudinally in order to form a narrative perspective. Interesting, but not what I was looking for. In fact, other authors seem critical of such an approach, and I have not come across it much in my field (org psych / org leadership). Overall, I would recommend this to graduate and doctoral students looking for a one-stop intro to narrative theory and methods. It helped my tremendously. I'd give it a five if it had more on how to code and analyze data. For that, try "Transforming Qualitative Information : Thematic Analysis and Code Development" by Richard E. Boyatzis. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good introduction

By Jenny Neuburger Everyone tells stories about events in their lives and everyone loves a good story. Stories contain facts and values, events and the social or individual meaning attached to those events. They humanise events by bringing them to the level of individual experience and emotion. Elliott examines the role and use of stories in interview and survey-based social research, as well as the role of researcher as narrator. For example, how individuals' accounts can be deconstructed to expose the social values that underpin them or how data collected about individuals over a period of time can be used to construct stories in order to make sense of statistical relationships observed. This book provides a useful introduction to longitudinal studies, which collect information about individuals over a period of time, and some of the techniques that can be used to analyse them. In particular, Elliott demonstrates how longitudinal data lends itself to a more person-centred and narrative-based approach to statistical analysis. I recommend this book to post-graduate students starting out in this field of research. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking, interesting and accessible

By C. Reed I came across this book as a master's student interested in exploring qualitative research methodology and techniques. I found the book very easy to read (I was reading it while on a scuba diving holiday so plenty of other potential distractions), and extremely useful as an introduction to, and overview of, many of the subtler issues involved in qualitative research. I particularly liked, and was very influenced by, her chapters on ethics (which was much more thought-provoking than any of the other introductions to research I had been reading); narrative analysis (which introduced analytical techniques that are not so widely used such as Labov Waletzky's evaluative model of narrative analysis); and the chapter on reflexivity (author as narrator). I know from feedback on my research project that some of the thoughts and research decisions that this book provoked led to my receiving a distinction on that project (and if that is not an incentive for fellow students to buy this, I don't know what else could be!).

"An elegantly written, scholarly and accessible text. Jane Elliott shows a sophisticated appreciation of contemporary methodological developments, and makes a persuasive case for the use of narrative approaches in both qualitative and quantitative research. The book challenges and advances debates about combining methods, and shows how stories can work within and across conventional research boundaries. It is a truly original contribution to the literature."--

Amanda Coffey Cardiff School of Social Sciences This is a lucid and accessible introduction to narrative methods in social research. It is also an important book about the nature, role and theoretical basis of research methodology in general. Jane Elliott instructs the reader on the basic methods and methodological assumptions that form the basis of narrative methods. She does so in a way that is practical and accessible and in a way that will make the book a favourite with students and experienced researchers alike. Elliott argues that both qualitative and quantitative methods are characterized by a concern with narrative, and that our research data can best be analyzed if it is seen in narrative terms. In concrete, step-by-step terms she details for the reader how to go about collecting data and how to subject that data to narrative analysis, while at the same time placing this process in its wider theoretical context. She works across the traditional quantitative/qualitative divide to set out the ways in which narrative researchers can uncover such issues as social change, causality and social identity. She also shows how the techniques and skills used by qualitative researchers can be deployed when doing quantitative research and, similarly, how qualitative researchers can sometimes profit from using quantitative skills and techniques.