

An Introduction to Qualitative Research in Spiritual Care

Introduction

This new online course is an ideal introduction to qualitative research for healthcare chaplains, spiritual care providers and health and social care professionals with an interest in spiritual care research. Delivered over six weeks, this course will introduce participants to a broad range of qualitative research skills as they work through the stages of developing a research idea through to full proposal. This course is suitable for beginner researchers who have an interest in conducting high quality research but need the confidence and support to get started. It is also a suitable refresher for early stage researchers working on a project with a qualitative dimension.

This professional learning experience is certified by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and intentionally aims to connect and encourage a network of research-interested chaplains, spiritual care providers and other healthcare professionals across Scotland and Ireland.

Course content

Participants will be introduced to the following elements of qualitative research:

- Formulating a research question
- Introduction to research philosophy
- Study design and ethical considerations
- How to approach a literature review
- Understanding qualitative data collection methods (including interviews, focus groups and observation)
- Approaches to data analysis and interpretation
- How to plan for write up and dissemination

The course will use a range of learning methods including presented lecture material, relevant reading, small group discussion, practical exercises and individual support.

Learning Outcomes

- an introductory understanding of the key elements of qualitative research as outlined above
- an increased confidence in designing, conducting and interpreting qualitative research in healthcare

Course Dates and Times

This six-week course will run in Jan/Feb 2021 using 'live' online sessions via Zoom. Course sessions will be weekly, lasting two hours from **2-4pm** on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 19th and 26th January 2021**
- **Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd February 2021**

Preparatory materials will be sent out before each session to help participants prepare; those who undertake a further 2 hours of learning activity (e.g. reading, writing, developing their research ideas) each week outside of class time will reap most benefit from the course.

The links/password for each Zoom session will be shared via email. Participants are asked to log into the online platform at 1.50pm each week so sessions can start promptly at 2pm.

Further Learning Beyond this Course

The long-term hope of this course is to encourage and equip Scottish and Irish chaplains to undertake research that could, in time, be suitable for peer-reviewed publication. Further learning opportunities will be available after this introductory course for those who want to conduct their proposed study and submit their work for academic publication.

Teaching

The course will be taught by Suzanne Bunniss PhD. Suzanne is the founder and director of Scottish charity FireCloud and a social science researcher with 15 years of experience as principal and co-investigator across a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations. She has worked extensively in multi-disciplinary research with a qualitative focus on dialogic education, collective learning, co-production and stakeholder engagement. Suzanne specialises in the use of qualitative research methods in healthcare and community settings with a particular interest in studies that support and inform social change; she has designed and taught postgraduate courses in qualitative research methodology for medics, nurses, allied health professionals, chaplains, managers and a range of third sector professionals.

Participating in an Online Course

The live group sessions will be delivered using Zoom; this allows the group to see everyone who is taking part. Participants will be put into discussion groups at times and tools such as 'whiteboard' or 'screen share' will be used to share visual information with the participants.

You will need access to a device such as a desktop computer, laptop or tablet which allows you to access the internet with a screen large enough to see the group members during online sessions. You will also need internet connection which is fast enough to take part in video sessions on Zoom.

Participants may also want to consider whether you have a space you can use where you can work without interruption. Please keep in mind that the other people taking part in the course will be able to see the room or space behind you when you are online.

Enquiries

If you have any questions in advance of booking, please contact sbunniss@gmail.com