



# WORKSHOP: HOW TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

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# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**THERE ARE NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TO DECLARE**



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, participants will be able to describe:

- how to appraise and ensure quality of qualitative research
- the key concepts and tools used in critical appraisal of qualitative research



# OUTLINE OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Introduction to the concepts and tools used in critical appraisal of qualitative research (10 min)
2. Discussions in research groups (25 min)
3. Summary of the discussions and conclusions (10 min)





# INTRODUCTION



**QUALITY?**  
**RIGOUR?**  
**VALIDITY?**  
**RELIABILITY?**  
**CREDIBILITY?**  
**TRUSTWORTHINESS?**



# TRUSTWORTHINESS

- **Credibility** (findings are true, credible and believable)
- **Dependability** (repeatable if the inquiry occurred within the same cohort of participants, coders and context)
- **Conformability** (the results confirmed or corroborated by other researchers)
- **Transferability** (can results be transferred to other contexts or setting)

(Lincoln and Guba 1985)



# EXAMPLE ARTICLE

**Forero et al. (2018)** Application of four dimension criteria to assess rigour of qualitative research in emergency medicine. BMC Health Serv Res. 2018 Feb 17;18(1):120. doi: 10.1186/s12913-018-2915-2.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816375/>





# EXAMPLES OF THE STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING TRUSTWORTHINESS

## CREDIBILITY

- Peer debriefing
- Prolonged engagement
- Clarifying researcher bias
- Quotes in the manuscript
- Member checking

## DEPENDABILITY

- Rich description of the research methods
- Ensuring and measuring coding accuracy and inter-coders' reliability

## CONFIRMABILITY

- Reflexivity
- Triangulation (methodological, data source, investigators and theoretical)

## TRANSFERABILITY

- Purposeful sampling
- Data saturation
- Comparing results

(Forero et al. 2018, modified)



# EXAMPLE ARTICLE: REVIEW OF APPRAISAL TOOLS FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Majid U, Vanstone M. Appraising Qualitative Research for Evidence Syntheses: A Compendium of Quality Appraisal Tools. Qual Health Res. 2018 Nov;28(13):2115-2131. doi: 10.1177/1049732318785358. Epub 2018 Jul 26.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1049732318785358>



# DISCUSSIONS IN SMALL GROUPS / RESEARCH TEAMS



# OUTLINE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- 1) Read first by yourself:
  - a) CASP-checklist: <https://casp-uk.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CASP-Qualitative-Checklist-2018.pdf>
  - b) Table 3 in Forero et al. (2018) manuscript <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816375/>
- 2) Discussion in groups: How you can ensure the trustworthiness of your research? Take account four criteria: credibility, dependability, confirmability and transferability. Be concrete!
- 3) Each group will document their ideas to Flinga
- 4) Conclusions





# LOGIN TO FLINGA

<https://edu.flinga.fi/s/EZER4SE>

**Flinga from yesterday**

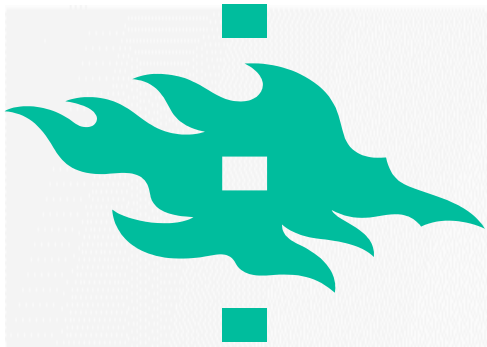
**<https://edu.flinga.fi/s/EJG5P7N>**





# CONCLUSIONS

- Multiple criteria and tools exist to assess qualitative research
- Need to consider trustworthiness of every step in qualitative research
- Accurate and systematic reporting
  - Ratio for research question and methods
  - Sampling strategy (purposive, saturation)
  - Systematic data collection (interview guide)
  - Analysis (number of coders involved, training, systematic process, software, divergent cases)



# RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Tong A, Sainsbury J, Craig J. Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. *Int J Qual Health Care* 19(6): 349–357, 2007  
<https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/article/19/6/349/1791966>
- Elo S, Kääriäinen M, Kanste O, Pölkki T, Utriainen K, Kyngäs H. Qualitative Content Analysis: A Focus on Trustworthiness. *SAGE Open* 2014: 1–10 DOI: 10.1177/2158244014522633  
[http://www.miguelangelmartinez.net/IMG/pdf/2014\\_Elo\\_et\\_al\\_Qualit\\_Content\\_Analysis\\_Trust\\_SAGE.pdf](http://www.miguelangelmartinez.net/IMG/pdf/2014_Elo_et_al_Qualit_Content_Analysis_Trust_SAGE.pdf)
- Forero et al. (2018) Application of four dimension criteria to assess rigour of qualitative research in emergency medicine. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2018 Feb 17;18(1):120. doi: 10.1186/s12913-018-2915-2  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816375/>
- Lau R.S. and Traulsen J. Are we ready to accept the challenge? Addressing the shortcoming of contemporary qualitative health research. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* 13:332-338, 2017
- Majid U and Vanstone M. Appraising Qualitative Research for Evidence Syntheses: A Compendium of Quality Appraisal Tools. *Qual Health Res.* 2018 Nov;28(13):2115-2131. doi: 10.1177/1049732318785358. Epub 2018 Jul 26.
- Malterud K. Qualitative research: standards, challenges, and guidelines. *The Lancet* 358: 483-488, 2001
- Mays N, Pope C. Assessing quality in qualitative research. *BMJ* 320:50, 2000 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.320.7226.50>
- Comprehensive list of quality appraisal tools for qualitative research: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/qual/assess>