

This is the author-created version of the following work:

**Bin Ibrahim, Muhamad Alif (2022) *Researching and learning through time and space: Reflections from the QMiP virtual conference 2021*. QM i P Bulletin, 33 pp. 39-41.**

Access to this file is available from:

<https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/75093/>

© Copyright 2000-2022 The British Psychological Society. This is a pre-publication version of the following article: Bin Ibrahim, Muhamad Alif (2022) Researching and Learning Through Time and Space: Reflections from the QMiP Virtual Conference 2021. The Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section Bulletin, 33 (Spring). pp. 39-41.

Please refer to the original source for the final version of this work:

<https://doi.org/10.53841/bpsqmip.2022.1.33.39>

**Researching and Learning Through Time and Space: Reflections from the QMiP  
Virtual Conference 2021**

Muhamad Alif Bin Ibrahim

School of Social and Health Sciences, James Cook University, Singapore

*This is a pre-publication version of the following article:* Bin Ibrahim, M. A. (2022)  
Researching and Learning Through Time and Space: Reflections from the QMiP Virtual  
Conference 2021, *QMIP Bulletin*, 33 (Spring), pp 39-41, published on 17 June 2022.

<https://shop.bps.org.uk/qmip-bulletin-issue-33-spring-2022>

**Author Note**

Muhamad Alif Bin Ibrahim <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9849-5413>

I have no known conflict of interest to disclose.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Muhamad Alif Bin  
Ibrahim, School of Social and Health Sciences, James Cook University, Singapore, 149  
Sims Drive, Singapore 387380. Email: [muhamadalif.binibrahim@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:muhamadalif.binibrahim@my.jcu.edu.au)

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted and changed how academic and research events, such as workshops and conferences, are typically conducted. The shift to having these events online has enabled academics and researchers to remain connected while being kept updated on the various developments in their respective fields and disciplines. As a PhD Candidate in Singapore, this transition to online platforms has enabled me to attend a plethora of qualitative research workshops and conferences that would have otherwise been out of reach for me due to the time and costs involved to participate in such events in person.

I was excited to attend my first Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP) virtual conference on Friday, 16 July 2020. The virtual conference featured three renowned speakers within the qualitative research discipline – Professors Jonathan Smith, Ann Phoenix and Elizabeth Stokoe. Attending the conference meant sacrificing some parts of my evening as Singapore was seven hours ahead of the United Kingdom (UK). This meant that the virtual conference began at 5pm and ended around 10:30pm Singapore time. However, as a qualitative researcher, I could not pass up this opportunity to hear and learn from these giants in the discipline.

Professor Jonathan Smith started the conference by urging the audience to reconsider the importance of understanding time and change within psychology. Professor Smith highlighted how the sub-disciplines of developmental, clinical and health psychology have long drawn on the concepts of time and change in mapping the human life-course development and monitoring the impact of interventions. Next, he delved into a recently published book on qualitative longitudinal research by Professor Bren Neale, who explicated the differences and interactions between “fixed” and “fluid” time when studying the social world (Neale, 2021). Quantitative studies utilising longitudinal research designs have typically looked at prospective changes at individual and group levels. However, Professor Smith encouraged qualitative researchers using longitudinal designs to embrace and integrate both the prospective and retrospective temporal gaze to gain a more holistic and deeper understanding of people’s lives.

Professor Smith, who developed Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), spoke about the ways in which IPA was particularly useful in exploring these processes of change in lived experiences (Smith et al., 2009). He further expanded on this using various empirical works conducted with his PhD students and other researchers to understand the impact of time and change. These studies revolved around identity and chronic pain (Smith & Osborn, 2007), pregnancy and motherhood (Smith, 1999), the impact of multi-systemic therapy at reducing antisocial behaviour over time (Conroy et al., 2021), and the relational changes between kidney donors and their recipients (Spiers et al., 2016). Smith concluded his presentation by highlighting the steady growth in longitudinal IPA studies that have proliferated over the last five years across many topics and countries globally (Farr & Nizza, 2019).

After a good break to stretch my legs and have dinner, I tuned in to listen to Professors Ann Phoenix and Elizabeth Stokoe. They continued with an insightful seminar on the impact of qualitative psychology on COVID-19 policies in the UK. Both speakers described their roles in the Independent SAGE committee, which provided scientific advice to the UK government and the public regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. They highlighted some of their work, which included the use of socio-behavioural theories to understand the reasons behind vaccine uptake and hesitancy (Independent SAGE, 2021), the ways in which social interaction research was used to inform physical distancing guidelines (Laurier et al., 2020), and the importance of clear, unambiguous public health messaging to maintain trust and impact adherence to COVID-19 measures among the general public (Independent SAGE, 2020).

What also caught my attention (and my heart!) was the use of Conversation Analysis to understand the ways in which phone calls to report domestic violence to the police were received and responded to during the pandemic. Using an analysis of a British dataset, Professor Stokoe showed the sequences of interaction and structural norms that enabled the call-taker to understand the ways in which the caller was in danger (Stokoe et al., 2021).

These systematic elements of the conversation also provided the caller with a way to safely conceal the intent of their call from anyone who may be overhearing it.

As a qualitative researcher and aspiring methodological scholar, I am grateful to have been given this opportunity to attend and reflect on my first QMiP virtual conference experience. The conference has kept me up-to-date with novel qualitative research findings and other methodological developments within the qualitative psychology discipline. Furthermore, with over 50 attendees throughout the sessions, the conference has also kept me connected with other qualitative researchers within the discipline amidst the pandemic restrictions.

Professor Smith's sharing has made me reflect on my PhD project, which aims to understand the resilience of same-sex couples in Singapore (Bin Ibrahim & Barlas, 2021). I plan to conduct a qualitative longitudinal study in 2022 to further understand the processes and strategies these couples use to navigate and negotiate the social and political stressors in the Singapore context. Thus, Professor Smith's call to incorporate the temporal processes and gaze into research studies was something that heavily resonated with me. Such considerations will allow me a holistic understanding of how same-sex couples deal with socio-political stressors over time.

I have also learned more about Conversation Analysis as a qualitative research methodology and its differences from experiential qualitative approaches (Wooffitt, 2005). The sharing by Professors Ann Phoenix and Elizabeth Stokoe has also shown me the ways in which qualitative psychology can greatly impact decision making at the governmental and policy levels. This has also dispelled my own beliefs that only empirical findings from large scale, quantitative research studies get to shape and inform public policies. I am already looking forward to attending the next QMiP Conference in 2022!

**Word count:** 962 words

## References

- Bin Ibrahim, M.A., & Barlas, J. (2021). "Making do with things we cannot change": An interpretive phenomenological analysis of relationship resilience among gay men in Singapore. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 38(9), 2630–2652. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211017988>
- Conroy, D., Smith, J., Butler, S., et al. (2021). The long-term impact of Multi-Systemic Therapy: An experiential study of the adolescent-young adult life transition. *Journal of Adolescent Research* [Advance online publication]. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/07435584211025323>
- Farr, J., & Nizza, I.E. (2019). Longitudinal interpretive phenomenological analysis (LIPA): A review of studies and methodological considerations. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 16(2), 199–217. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14780887.2018.1540677>
- Laurier, E., Hamann, M., Albert, S., & Stokoe, E. (2020, 5 May). Walking in the time of COVID-19 [Blog post]. Research on Language and Social Interaction. Retrieved 23 December 2021 from <https://rolsi.net/2020/05/05/guest-blog-walking-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>
- Neale, B. (2021). *The craft of qualitative longitudinal research: The craft of researching lives through time*. London: Sage.
- Smith, J.A., Flowers, P., & Larkin, M. (2009). *Interpretative phenomenological analysis: Theory, method, and research*. London: Sage.
- Smith, J.A., & Osborn, M. (2007). Pain as an assault on the self: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of the psychological impact of chronic benign low back pain. *Psychology and Health*, 22(5), 517–534. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14768320600941756>
- Smith, J.A. (1999). Identity development during the transition to motherhood: An interpretative phenomenological analysis. *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology*, 17(3), 281–299. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02646839908404595>
- Spiers, J., Smith, J.A., & Drage, M. (2016). A longitudinal interpretative phenomenological

analysis of the process of kidney recipients' resolution of complex ambiguities within relationships with their living donors. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 21(11), 2600–2611. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105315581070>

Stokoe, E., Albert, S., Parslow, S., & Pearl, C. (2021, 3 June). Conversation analysis and conversation design: Where the moonshots are [Blog post]. Medium. Retrieved 23 December 2021 from <https://elizabeth-stokoe.medium.com/conversation-design-and-conversation-analysis-c2a2836cb042>

Independent SAGE. (2020). *UK government messaging and its association with public understanding and adherence to COVID-19 mitigations: Five principles and recommendations for a COVID communication reset*. The Independent SAGE Report 22. Retrieved 23 December 2021 from <https://www.independentsage.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Messagingpaper-FINAL-1-1.pdf>

Independent SAGE. (2021). *Vaccine uptake, ethnicity and difference*. The Independent SAGE report 41. Retrieved 23 December 2021 from [https://www.independentsage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Vaccine\\_uptake\\_including\\_ethnicity30-03-21\\_final.pdf](https://www.independentsage.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Vaccine_uptake_including_ethnicity30-03-21_final.pdf)

Wooffitt, R. (2005). *Conversation analysis and discourse analysis: A comparative and critical introduction*. London: Sage.

ACCEPTED VERSION