

# Workshop - Understanding Qualitative Research

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**Abstract** - This workshop is designed for those who already have some understanding of educational research methods who want to gain a deeper understanding of qualitative research. Participants will work in small groups to co-construct their understanding of quantitative and qualitative research paradigms and epistemology. At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to (1) compare and contrast quantitative and qualitative research paradigms, (2) compare epistemological perspectives in qualitative research, and (3), describe five research strategies commonly used in qualitative research. This knowledge can be later applied by participants to better understand engineering education research articles and proposals that use qualitative methodologies. An approximately 60-page handbook entitled *Qualitative research basics: A guide for engineering educators* by Nancy Van Note Chism, Elliot Douglas, and Wayne J. Hilson, Jr. will be distributed to attendees. Completion of *Fundamentals of Educational Research* or other workshop or course which discusses the basics of educational research is considered a prerequisite for attending this session. This workshop is sponsored by the National Science foundation through *Expanding and sustaining research capacity in engineering and technology education: Building on successful programs for faculty and graduate students* (DUE – 0817461).

*Index Terms:* Engineering education research, Qualitative Research, Research methods

## WORKSHOP GOALS

Participants will be able to (1) compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative research paradigms, (2) compare epistemological perspectives in qualitative research and (3) describe five research strategies in qualitative research.

## WORKSHOP FORMAT

Participants will work in small groups to co-construct their understanding of quantitative and qualitative research paradigms and epistemology.

Participants will receive a copy of a 60-page handbook, *Qualitative research basics: A guide for engineering educators* by Nancy Van Note Chism, Elliot Douglas, and Wayne J. Hilson, Jr.

## ANTICIPATED AUDIENCE

This workshop is designed for those with some understanding of educational research methods. Completion of *Fundamentals of Educational Research* or other workshop or course that discusses the basics of educational research is considered a prerequisite for attending.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## FACILITATOR INFORMATION

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