



Rethinking Transparency and Rigor from a Qualitative Open Science Perspective

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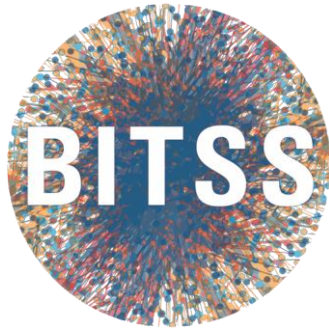


Agenda:


- \approx 20 minutes: A concise summary and discussion of our focus paper (without the paper authors)
- \approx 2:25 PM: Open Q&A and discussion session with the paper's authors



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Introducing Our Focus Paper Today



Explores how open science principles, often viewed through a quantitative lens, can be reinterpreted and applied in qualitative research.

Rethinking Transparency and Rigor from a Qualitative Open Science Perspective

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Discussions around transparency in open science focus primarily on sharing data, materials, and coding schemes, especially as these practices relate to reproducibility. This fairly quantitative perspective of transparency does not align with all scientific methodologies. Indeed, qualitative researchers also care deeply about how knowledge is produced, what factors influence the research process, and how to share this information. Explicating a researcher's background and role allows researchers to consider their impact on the research process and interpretation of the data, thereby increasing both transparency and rigor. Researchers may engage in positionality and reflexivity in a variety of ways, and transparently sharing these steps allows readers to draw their own informed conclusions about the results and study as a whole. Imposing a limited, quantitatively-informed set of standards on all research can cause harm to researchers and the communities they work with if researchers are not careful in considering the impact of such standards. Our paper will argue the importance of avoiding strong defaults around transparency (e.g., always share data) and build upon previous work around qualitative open science. We explore how transparency in all aspects of our research can lend itself toward projecting and confirming the rigor of our work.

Keywords open science, transparency, rigor, qualitative, quantitative

The social sciences have been undergoing a credibility revolution, also known as the open science movement, within the last decade. This movement emphasizes greater transparency and openness through specific practices, such as preregistration and replication, and improving the quality and quantity of evidence used in making scientific claims (Vazire, 2018). The concepts of transparency and rigor are important to these conversations. *Transparency* can be defined as "the obligation to make data, analysis, methods, and interpretive choices underlying their claims visible in a way that allows others to evaluate them" (Moravcsik, 2019). *Rigor* can be defined as "the strict application of the scientific method to ensure unbiased and well-controlled experimental design, methodology, analysis, interpretation and reporting of results" (National Institutes of Health [NIH], n.d.). Within the open science movement, discussions around rigor and transparency have largely come from a positivist, quantitative perspective that focuses on the transparency of outputs, namely open data, open materials, open code, and open access to manuscripts (Hagger, 2019; Lyon, 2016; Powers & Hampton, 2019). For example, Fecher and Friesike (2014) describe five schools of open science which focus on (1) creating openly available platforms, tools, and services for scientists; (2) making science accessible for citizens; (3) developing alternative measures of impact; (4) making knowledge freely available for everyone; and (5) making the knowledge creation process more efficient. Notably, their description of open science does not explicitly discuss transparency regarding the decisions researchers make during the re-

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The Open Science Movement in the Social Sciences

- Recent emphasis on transparency and reproducibility
- Dominant quantitative focus in transparency debates
- Limitations of applying quantitative standards to qualitative research



Transparency and Rigor in Qualitative Research

- Definition and importance of transparency and rigor in research
- Qualitative methods: Positionality, reflexivity, and detailed method descriptions
- Risks of imposing quantitative standards on qualitative research



Advancing Open Science through Qualitative Methods

- Need for **broader guidelines** in open science that accommodate qualitative methods
- The role of qualitative research in understanding **context** and **validity**
- Suggestions for **integrating qualitative methods** in open science practices



Conclusion and Future Directions

- Rethinking rigor and transparency in open science to **include qualitative perspectives**
- Potential for **richer, more inclusive research frameworks**
- **Need for ongoing dialogue** between qualitative and quantitative researchers



A new twist to.... ?

**OPEN SCIENCE:
JUST
SCIENCE
DONE RIGHT**



Part II

- “Internal” discussion (without authors)!



Part III

- Open Q&A and discussion session with the paper's authors!