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Unlocking Qualitative Research: Insights and Guidance from *Academic Medicine's* Editorial Pros

by [Sarah Harendt, MS](#), Manager, Education & Faculty Development,
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In a recent edition of *Academic Medicine's* podcast, deputy and assistant editors, Bridget O'Brien, PhD, Jonathan Amiel, MD, Megan Brown MBBS(H), PhD, and Laura Hirshfield, PhD discuss the challenges they face in reviewing and managing qualitative research papers.

The conversation touches on the spectrum of qualitative methods, ranging from traditional scientific approaches to constructivist or arts-based approaches. The editors express their interest in seeing more diverse methodologies in medical education research and emphasize the importance of clearly explaining and justifying the chosen methodology to a wider audience. Additionally, they encourage authors to clarify their approach and reasoning and to provide clear goals, methodology descriptions, and interpretations of findings.

They emphasize the value of collaborating with experienced colleagues and seeking guidance and support throughout the research process. Furthermore, they point to the value of peer mentorship and social networking to identify and join collaboratively on research projects. The importance of finding research mentors, both within one's institution and beyond, is also stressed.

The editors suggest contacting them through various channels, such as email, social media, or blog comments, to address myths or uncertainties about submitting qualitative research to *Academic Medicine*. They also recommend engaging in

discussions on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) to learn from perspectives and access helpful resources.

Use the links below to engage further with this topic or *Academic Medicine's* other offerings:

- [Listen to](#) or [read the transcript](#) of this episode
- [Listen to other AM podcast episodes](#)
- [Read the AM Rounds blog](#) (includes AM podcast episode transcripts)

Side-by-side Overview of Qualitative and Quantitative Paradigms Useful in Academic Medicine Research

Click on the thumbnail image or the link below it to view the infographic in full size at *AM Last Page*.¹

The infographic on the right provides a quick-view of qualitative and quantitative research paradigms. As the authors stated, "recognizing the different available approaches can benefit researchers of all types....[B]oth sets of methods--and often a blend of the two--offer important insights into the problems the academic medicine community faces."¹



¹Castillo-Page L, Bodilly S, Bunton SA. AM last page. Understanding qualitative and quantitative research paradigms in academic medicine *Acad Med*. 2012 Mar;87(3):386. DOI: [10.1097/ACM.0b013e318247c660](https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e318247c660)

[AM Last Page: Understanding Qualitative and Quantitative Research Paradigms in Academic Medicine](#)¹

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