

Test of fortitude: the journey toward publishing a phenomenological study

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Did you even *read* my manuscript?

Background and Purpose

- The number of published qualitative phenomenological studies in health professions literature has grown dramatically over the last four decades.
- CINAHL Complete
  - "*phenomenological research OR phenomenology research*"
  - 1977 to 1987 → 17
  - 1988 to 1997 → 742
  - 1998 to 2007 → 4,192
  - 2008 to 2017 → 7,756

Some examples...

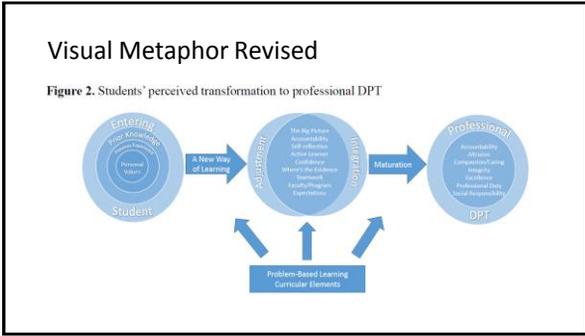
Methods

- "I believe that the researcher as a faculty member is a FATAL flaw of this work - others might disagree - at the very least it needs to be addressed as a limitation"
- "Were any of the researchers trained in qualitative methods?"

Methods

- "Unclear of the meaning of each of these techniques (thick description, member checking and peer debriefing) and how each contributed to the sense of data saturation."
- "Data needs more analysis - the themes do not appear mutually exclusive"





- ### Other strategies
- Use of clear subheadings throughout the document
    - Program and Participant Description
    - Pilot Study
    - Data collection
    - Data Analysis
    - Establishing Trustworthiness
  - Appendix the Interview guide
  - Assume reviewers are unfamiliar with qualitative methods

- ### After the response(s)...
- STAY CALM and PERSEVERE
    - A test of fortitude!
  - Take time to reflect before responding to reviewer comments
  - Talk with the editor
  - Seek colleagues not involved in the project for feedback
  - "Know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em..."
  - Volunteer as a reviewer of qualitative manuscripts

Questions...comments...your experiences?