How to Do Your Research Project: A Guide for Students (Third edition)★★★★★

This book, which is supported with a companion website, could be helpful for students of social or health sciences at undergraduate, master's or PhD level.

Covering all aspects of the research process from selecting an idea to write up, it includes how to formulate a question, conduct a literature review and obtain ethics approval.

The methodology section is clear and provides a detailed description of the philosophical underpinnings of empirical research.

The chapter on research designs includes ethnomethodology and action research as well as sampling, quality assessment, research methods and data analysis (both qualitative and quantitative).

Application of theory to research findings is also covered. There are checklists at the end of each chapter and a generous margin at the side of the page for the reader to make notes.

The glossary of terms is useful and there are recommendations for further reading. It is easy to read and written with humour.

This book would be useful as a stand-alone text as well as the basis for more detailed and advanced reading.

I would recommend purchase for library and individual use, although notes can be made in the margin, individual purchase might be preferable.

Reviewed by Patricia Jarrett, freelance researcher in health sciences, Independent Researcher

Caring Matters Most★★★

Written in the first person and illustrated by stories, this book cuts right across the conventional bioethics that underpin the Nursing and Midwifery Council Code.

The author contributes to a growing literature on ‘aliveness’. He overturns generally accepted thoughts so empathy is devalued while pity is esteemed.

His fresh approach made me question my understanding, read other sources to clarify issues and debate with colleagues. It could confuse those who are at the early stages of their nursing career but would be a thought-provoking browse for doctoral students and oncology or palliative care nurses.

This is not an easy read, and some US-related commentary does not translate, but I persisted, thanks in part to a foreword by Patricia Benner.

The text veers towards controversial: the author argues that nursing is different from other healthcare professions because caring is not essential in their work.

 Reviewed by Sue McBean, associate academic, University of Ulster

The Flight Of The Black Necked Swans★★★★

This is an account of one man’s beliefs, the love of his homeland and his love of the NHS. Starting in Chile, where he fought for the rights of the people, it goes on to his fight for the rights of staff and patients in the NHS.

This will be an interesting read for nurses, front-line staff and managers, as it gives insight into issues that are ongoing in UK hospitals. It is a consultant’s real-life battle to provide an adequate safe caring environment for his patients and colleagues.

It describes his belief in his teams and how, if teams work together, they can stand up to anything.

The first 30 or so pages were a struggle but it is worth persevering. Reading this has renewed my belief that we should all work as a part of a team to not only provide the best patient experience but also the best staff experience.

Reviewed by Anne Boyle, senior patient flow sister, University Hospital of North Durham

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