Research Skills 3 Practical 2

The Psychology of Friendship: An interpretative phenomenological approach

Reading Suggestions

The following text is a central resource for this practical:


Below are three further sets of references. The first lists papers on qualitative methods in psychology in general. The second list is related to the method of analysis (IPA: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis) and some papers published using this method on a variety of topics. You should use these papers to structure your analysis and to get a feel for how to write up qualitative work. The third list relates to studies / papers on the topic of friendship. The list includes both quantitative and qualitative studies that relate to a variety of features on friendship such as its role in wellbeing, reciprocity, mutual support, closeness, emotional investment etc. which are closely linked to the content of the interviews you will be analyzing.

1. Qualitative Psychology (general)


2. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

This list of papers is related to the method of analysis (IPA: Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis) and some papers published using this method on a variety of topics. Look at one or two of these to get a feel for how to write up qualitative work.


### 3. Friendship

This list of papers relates to studies / papers on the topic of friendship. The list includes both quantitative and qualitative studies that relate to a variety of features on friendship such as its role in wellbeing, reciprocity, mutual support, closeness, emotional investment etc. which are closely linked to the content of the interviews you will be analyzing. Scan the list below and pick out some references that will help you to substantiate any points you want to make in your write-up (e.g., you may want to argue that internet-mediated relationships have a different psychology). Bear in mind that yours is write up of a qualitative study so you might want to consider how this might shape your inclusion of quantitative studies in your report. Be strategic in your reading - always scan abstracts first before deciding which part of an article is worth reading. You DO NOT have to use all of these references – the list is here to help you orient to the right types of papers. You can search for your own references as well. Bear in mind that yours is write up of a qualitative study so you might want to consider how this might shape your inclusion of quantitative studies in your report.


