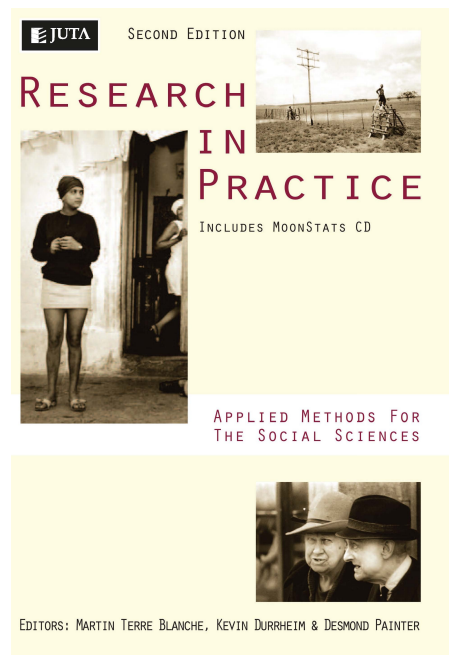


Research in Practice: Applied Methods for the Social Sciences

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About this Publication:

Over the past few decades there has been a major shift in research methodology – away from technicist to more contextual and pragmatic approaches. This is reflected in a greater emphasis on interdisciplinary and applied research skills, the concurrent use of qualitative and quantitative methods, and more sophisticated understanding of the epistemological grounding research. *Research in Practice* incorporates these new trends while also providing comprehensive coverage of the full range of established research approaches and techniques.

Key Features

- A lively text which incorporates new trends while also providing comprehensive coverage of the full range of established research approaches and techniques
- Structured to facilitate systematic study of each phase of the research process in sequence
- Aims to ground research methodology in terms of practical outcomes, and to equip students with applied technical know-how and conceptual tools to evaluate and contextualise their work in terms of larger social and philosophical issues
- A strong emphasis on practical examples drawn from the southern African experience
- Richly supplemented by photographs, case studies, tips and checklists.

Contents Include:

Section 1: The research process

- Histories of the present: social science research in context
- Doing an information search
- Research design
- Ethical issues in social science research
- Putting design into practice: writing and evaluating research proposals
- Publish or perish: disseminating your research findings

Section 2: Quantitative research techniques

- Generating quantitative data
- Evaluating research design
- Basic quantitative analysis
- Jumping to conclusions: an overview of inferential statistical methods
- Multivariate data analysis

Section 3: Qualitative research techniques

- Why qualitative research?
- From encounter to text: collecting data in qualitative research
- First steps in qualitative data analysis
- Lived experience and interpretation: the balancing act in qualitative analysis
- Calling it a day: reaching conclusions in qualitative research

Section 4: Research in applied contexts

- Jobs and careers in social science research
- Programme evaluation
- Participatory action research: a practical guide for realistic radicals
- Researching public policy
- Research methods in clinical research
- Assessment research
- Standpoint methodologies: Marxist, feminist, and black scholarship perspectives
- Postmodernism: a critical practice?
- Postcolonial African methods and interpretation

Of Interest and Benefit to:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate students of psychology, sociology, anthropology and applied fields of social work, nursing and occupational therapy
- Practising researchers