

PAA 2022 Proposed Workshop QDR/Guttmacher Institute

Title: **Qualitative data transparency with the Qualitative Data Repository**

Organizers:

- Sebastian Karcher, Associate Director, Qualitative Data Repository (primary contact), skarcher@syr.edu
- Alicia VandeVusse, Senior Research Scientist, Guttmacher Institute
- Lori Frohwirth, Senior Research Associate, Guttmacher Institute
- Jennifer Mueller, Research Associate, Guttmacher Institute

Description of workshop objectives, goals, and expected outcomes.

There is now a widely held consensus that more transparent research provides better outcomes for individual researchers, for scientific communities, and for society at large. Most efforts towards transparent research to date have focused on quantitative research and the data that underpin it. The demand for scientific transparency, however, is equally relevant to qualitative research and data, even though sharing qualitative data poses unique challenges, both logistically and ethically. Qualitative researchers, therefore, may want to share their data and make their work more transparent, but lack the tools and resources to do so successfully.

Goal: This workshop will familiarize participants with the essentials of *gathering* qualitative data in a way that can allow it to be posted publicly, *managing* qualitative data including when the data contain sensitive information, *sharing* qualitative data, and *transparency* in qualitative analysis to empower researchers to conduct more transparent qualitative research.

Objective: After exposure to the concepts, attendees will have an opportunity to work with facilitators in crafting or improving three key documents to help their research be more transparent: data management plans, informed consent protocols, and transparency plans.

The workshop will have three parts:

- 1) An introduction to data management and sharing for qualitative research: How we plan, organize, and conduct our research determines our ability to share research outputs and be transparent about research processes. This hands-on introduction covers best practices and includes specific advice for writing data management plans (an increasingly common requirement for grant funding) for qualitative and multi-method research. (Karcher & Frohwirth)
- 2) Qualitative transparency in practice: Based on a partnership between researchers at the Guttmacher Institute and the Qualitative Data Repository, we present a case study of efforts to make as transparent as possible qualitative research on sensitive data. We describe key challenges, solutions, but also trade-offs and setbacks that provide unique learning opportunities for participants. (VandeVusse & Mueller)

- 3) Creating and assessing research transparency materials: Facilitators will work with individual researchers to craft or improve three key documents to help their research be more transparent: Data management plans, informed consent protocols, and transparency plans. Researchers without a suitable project of their own will work on assessing and improving sample documents provided by facilitators or participating on other projects which are present. (All: facilitators and participants)

Expected outcomes: For participants to leave with a strong understanding of the resources offered by the Qualitative Data Repository, an understanding from a practical example of how to set up a project so that the data and analysis can be handled in a scientifically transparent way, as well as how to craft necessary documents to facilitate the process: data management plans, informed consent protocols, and transparency plans.

Statement on how the workshop can benefit PAA 2022 attendees.

This workshop brings to the PAA membership information about resources that the PAA membership may not know about re: qualitative transparency. By fostering greater transparency on qualitative data collection and rendering analysis as transparent as possible, demographers can share innovations in data collection and analysis, things that often don't make it into the peer-reviewed piece. Engaging with these resources and thereby rendering their data collection and analysis increasingly transparent will help demographers stay current in their treatment of qualitative data. By increasing their methodological innovation and rigor, demographers can increase their chances of publishing in top-tier journals. The structure of the workshop will also provide a case study to demonstrate practical steps that need to be considered as well as impart skills to attendees on how to incorporate these principles into their work so that they will be poised to immediately start integrating transparency principles into their own data collection and storage. This platform also facilitates learning from other disciplines which also use qualitative data; this work is most advanced in the field of political science but equally relevant for demographers.

Description of target audience and estimated number of participants (minimum and maximum).

Researchers in public health and demography whose research includes a significant qualitative component and who are interested in enhancing research transparency of their qualitative work. Estimated number of participants: minimum=15; maximum=45.

Preferred workshop day(s) to be held:

Wednesday, April 6th

Proposed workshop duration (1/2 day, 1 day, 1.5 day, 2 day), format, activities, and schedule:

½ day

We would be willing to convert to an online workshop if necessary.

A/V needs beyond what is provided (see below).

Nothing

Short biographical sketches of presenters. Please include a link to a current CV.

The **Qualitative Data Repository** (<https://qdr.syr.edu/>) curates, stores, preserves, publishes, and enables the download of digital data generated through qualitative and multi-method research. QDR is the only repository in the US specializing exclusively in the curation and sharing of qualitative and multi-method data and is a [CoreTrustSeal-certified](#) entity.

The **Guttmacher Institute** (www.guttmacher.org) is a leading research and policy organization committed to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States and globally. We envision a world in which all people are able to exercise their rights and responsibilities regarding sexual behavior and reproduction freely and with dignity. The Institute produces a wide range of resources on topics pertaining to sexual and reproductive health, including more than 20 qualitative studies.

Sebastian Karcher is the Associate Director of the Qualitative Data Repository at Syracuse University. His main interests are in qualitative data management, data curation, and the integration of technology into scholarly workflows. He is an active contributor to several scholarly open source projects, including Zotero and the Citation Style Language, and has taught widely on digital technology and data management. Sebastian holds a PhD in political science from Northwestern University and has published in both social science journals such as *International Studies Quarterly* and *Socio-Economic Review* and information science journals such as *Nature Scientific Data*, *Data Science Journal*, and *IASSIST Quarterly*. [CV](#)

Lori Frohwirth has been with the Institute since 1999. Her work focuses on abortion and contraceptive use in the United States and the use of qualitative methods in public health research. Ms. Frohwirth holds a BA from New York University. [CV](#)

Alicia VandeVusse joined the Guttmacher Institute as a Senior Research Scientist in 2018. She is an expert in qualitative research methods, and leads projects that investigate the impact of changing policy landscapes on the experiences of patients and providers at family planning clinics. Her past research has focused on the childbearing, family planning and sexual health needs of LGBT people. Dr. VandeVusse earned her BA in economics from Smith College and her MA and PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the Guttmacher Institute, she was a Senior Researcher at the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health at the University of Chicago, where she worked on LGBT and adolescent health projects, including initiatives aimed at improving health care service delivery and HIV prevention. [CV](#)

Jennifer Mueller joined the Guttmacher Institute as a Research Associate in 2018. Her research focuses on contraceptive use and access to sexual and reproductive health services, and she is skilled in both

qualitative and quantitative research methods. She also has experience conducting research on gender-based violence and maternal mental health. She received a BA in anthropology and biology from the University of Virginia and an MPH in epidemiology and maternal and child health from the University of Washington.