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Editorial: Qualitative Understanding and Variety of Qualitative Approaches

The second issue of the first volume of *Qualitative Sociology Review* is a continuation of our initial idea to present diversity of theories, methods and techniques which are applied in social sciences aspiring to understand studied phenomena.

As Krzysztof Konecki presents in his introduction to the first issue, qualitative sociology is something more than a kind of method. It is a way of thinking about social world, the way of considering human being as an active part of the never-ceasing process of society becoming. Therefore a variety of approaches among current qualitative sociology schools cannot be reduced to a composition of different techniques of data gathering and analyzing. The variety is in fact a response to the multiplicity of processes, events and other elements of the phenomenon called society. To apply one of these diverse approaches in qualitative sociology means to choose one of diverse aspects of studied phenomenon, to decide about the way of conceptualization of its elements, to find inquiry used for description and explanation and, at the end, to select style of presentation for audience composed of other researchers. To apply one of these approaches means then – to choose the way of understanding.

In this issue, as well as in the whole journal, we intend to answer three questions: what specific aspects of social world are studied by qualitative researchers, what kind of approach they apply and finally, as a consequence of these first two questions, how they try to understand others and themselves?

In the first article Barry Gibson, Jane Gregory and Peter G. Robinson present theoretical intersection between two, dissimilar approaches and propose combination of systems theory and grounded theory. Authors begin by contrasting and outlining differences, then they explore potential connection and point out four types of intersection: the effectual intersection, the operational intersection, the intersection of primary redundancy and the global/transcendental intersection. They conclude with a proposal and discussion about possible emergence of a grounded systems methodology.

Pirkkoliisa Ahponen aims to explain how individuals make sense of their identities and define presence in their own social world and she focus especially on

the phenomenon called everyday heroism as a reflexive construction connected with biographical episodes during individual life courses. The author approaches the problem from a phenomenological perspective by interpreting autobiographical data and her considerations are developed in the general context of reflexive modernisation.

The third article, written by Tim Berard, is a qualitative socio-legal study with a special reference to hate crimes. The application of the Membership Categorization Analysis to examine hate crimes legislation, makes this paper very important and valuable not only for law & society inquiries but also for ethnomethodological/ conversational analytic studies and all qualitative social researchers interested in social problems discourse and constructionist social problems analysis.

Finally, Constantinos Phellas explores the problem of sexual identity and relationship between self-identification based on sexual orientation and ethnic minority membership. Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, author studied situation of Greek and Turkish gay men living in London and now presents result of his research which may be useful for those who recognize sexual identity as a contextual, negotiated and self-constructed phenomenon.