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The Discovery Of Grounded Theory: Strategies For Qualitative Research



Synopsis

Most writing on sociological method has been concerned with how accurate facts can be obtained and how theory can thereby be more rigorously tested. In *The Discovery of Grounded Theory*, Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss address the equally important enterprise of how the discovery of theory from data "systematically obtained and analyzed in social research" can be furthered. The discovery of theory from data "grounded theory" is a major task confronting sociology, for such a theory fits empirical situations, and is understandable to sociologists and laymen alike. Most important, it provides relevant predictions, explanations, interpretations, and applications. In Part I of the book, "Generation Theory by Comparative Analysis," the authors present a strategy whereby sociologists can facilitate the discovery of grounded theory, both substantive and formal. This strategy involves the systematic choice and study of several comparison groups. In Part II, *The Flexible Use of Data*, the generation of theory from qualitative, especially documentary, and quantitative data is considered. In Part III, "Implications of Grounded Theory," Glaser and Strauss examine the credibility of grounded theory. *The Discovery of Grounded Theory* is directed toward improving social scientists' capacity for generating theory that will be relevant to their research. While aimed primarily at sociologists, it will be useful to anyone interested in studying social phenomena "political, educational, economic, industrial" especially if their studies are based on qualitative data.

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Customer Reviews

One should not be dissuaded from this book by its publication date. The material is as relevant now the day it was published, making it an essential classic now for over 30 years. Readers of this book will be introduced into an entirely new paradigm for doing rigorous research based on a qualitative methodology. Particularly if you are only familiar with the traditional scientific method and experimentalism, this book opens up a whole new world. Glaser & Strauss show how theory emerges from the data, as an ever improving understanding of the significance of what is discovered. This book really presents a robust way for a researcher in any field, but particularly in the human sciences, to approach day to day research. It is the living method of creativity and innovation, presenting a system for understanding one's discoveries and framing them to producing meaningful knowledge. Everyone is approaching life this way, living out experiences and drawing conclusions from them, including the most mainstream of scientists. But Glaser and Strauss show how that process can be transformed from a willy-nilly gut feel into something that more reliably produces defensible knowledge claims and builds a substantive theoretical network.

This is the classic book that helped found and establish Grounded Theory as a viable research methodology. As a researcher who uses grounded theory, this book has been invaluable to me. However, as much as this book has helped me, the book feels a little dated in spots. I also think that this book would be too much for novice researchers--I would recommend that they start with a book like Kathy Charmaz's work on grounded theory. Still, though, this is the book that started it all and is certainly worth owning for anyone interested in qualitative research.

This book is a must for anyone looking to write theory, or for researchers looking to do qualitative analysis.

Glaser and Strauss's book is easy to read and offers a qualitative theory building strategy that is well structured. They provide a concise overview of the history of grounded theory and its uses. Moreover, they offer readers solid guidance on comparative qualitative studies and defense of the same in the world of research.

If you are a social science student doing research and would like to do something different (from theory verification) this is the book for you. Grounded Theory as explained by Glaser and Strauss is useable, even to the novice. Soon you too will be on your way to theory development!

it's a well structured book, clearly guide readers go through the procedures of qualitative data coding...and memo writing...And it gives me tips of how to sort out my qualitative data...enjoyed reading it!

Rereading Glaser & Strauss's book after many years makes it clear how they were able to become so influential. It is still the best one-volume account of GT.

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