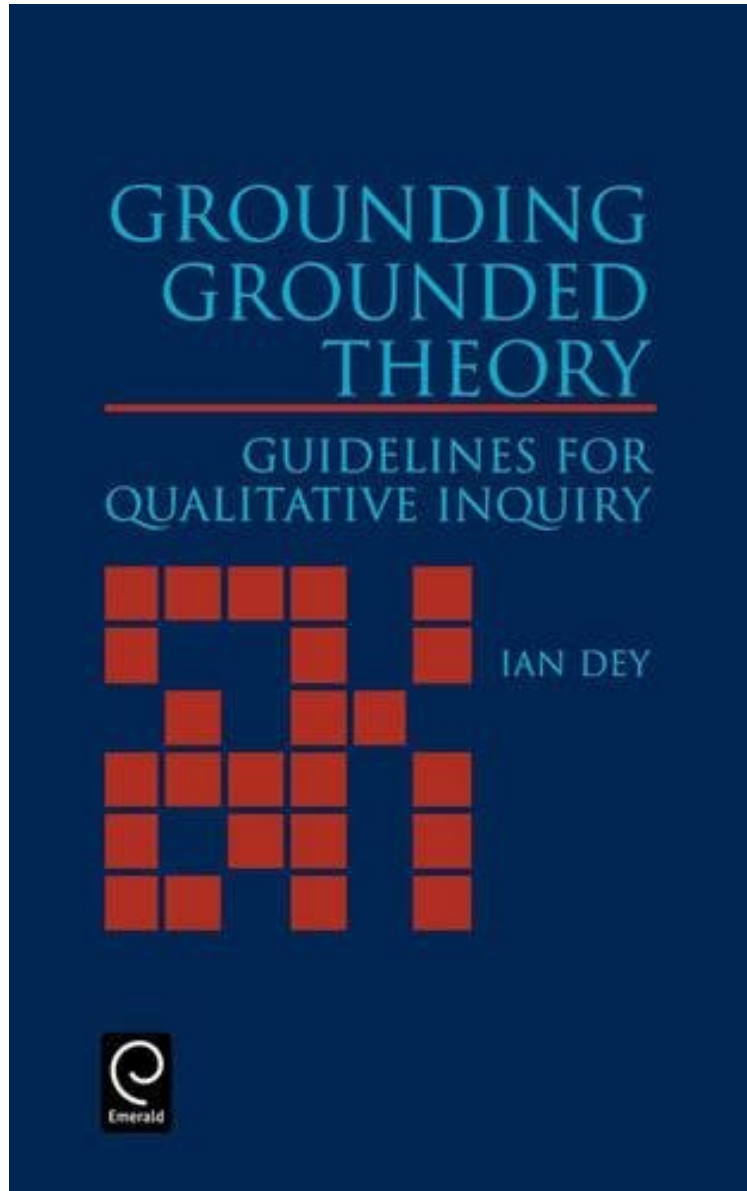


# Grounding Grounded Theory: Guidelines for Qualitative Inquiry

*Ian Dey*

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**Ian Dey : Grounding Grounded Theory: Guidelines for Qualitative Inquiry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grounding Grounded Theory: Guidelines for Qualitative Inquiry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good though needs updating By Gary This is a good book, though it

is probably true to say that its critique has been superseded and bettered. Dey provides a comprehensive list of criticisms of grounded theory, suggesting that there are many ambiguities, confusions and unanswered questions surrounding its use. For example, he illustrates how tensions in the original formulation of the approach are revealed in the gulf that developed between the originators, such that the role of verification remains a "puzzle" and the role of prior theory is unclear. Despite this critique, though, Dey maintains a surprising degree of optimism in the approach. He sees grounded theory as capable of development and as offering a "middle way" between ideographic and nomothetic theorizing. A more up to date and comprehensive critique is provided in the Thomas and James article 'Reinventing grounded theory'. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. more problems than solutions? By Margaret H Kearney As a student of its originators and a practitioner of the grounded theory approach, this book was for me a bit like reading an intelligent observer's critique of the conversations overheard at my family reunion, without knowing any of the context, history, or quirks of the family members themselves. Although Dey titles this book "Guidelines," I found it instead to be a methodological critique, as acknowledged in the editorial review provided by this website. Many issues Dey raises are reasonable and provocative, but his critique of the major methods texts of grounded theory bypasses the many hundreds of published examples of grounded theory research and thus doesn't address how the method is actually used in practice. This book will be of interest to serious grounded theory devotees who are able to see beyond some errors and misconceptions to a thoughtful exploration of important ideas behind grounded theory analysis, but it may discourage and confuse novices. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learning to use Grounded theory By Jose Manuel Esteves Ian Dey provides a good explanation of grounded theory method and he is especially worried in the definition of concepts, something very important in a research method. Special relevant are his highlights along the book, that help to focus on the essential of each section. In my opinion this book is a good analysis of Glaser and Strauss work, and he gives a more neutral perspective on how to use grounded theory. Very analytical and objective in his explanations.

Professor Dey's persuasive, instructive, critical, engaging, and often humorous investigation places many elements of grounded theory under close scrutiny. In searching out the methodological principles on which grounded theory is built, he reveals its main features as a qualitative research methodology for social research and the issues fundamental to understanding it. He also highlights the disagreements between the originators of grounded theory, their reasons, and their effects. His enlightened perspective thereby makes sense of the ways in which grounded theory approaches some of the key issues in qualitative analysis, such as coding and categorization, analysis of process, and generation of theory. It critically considers what grounded theory has to offer qualitative inquiry; and explores the principles and methodologies raised during the course of grounded theory's evolution.

"It is the fundamental level of analysis that gives the book its instructive quality and makes it valuable reading for researchers contemplating any form of qualitative research. Highly recommended."--TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY RESEARCH: THE SURREY QUARTERLY REVIEW "It is [the] fundamental level of analysis that gives the book its instructive quality and makes it valuable reading for researchers contemplating any form of qualitative research. Highly recommended."--TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY RESEARCH: THE SURREY QUARTERLY REVIEW About the Author Ian Dey is Head of the Department of Social Policy at the University of Edinburgh. His interests include policy and prejudice, with particular reference to reproduction; health and employment; family studies; issues in work and welfare; development policies; and qualitative methods. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. From the Introduction Let us begin this inquiry with the obvious question: what is grounded theory? We can start with a summary of some of the main tenets of grounded theory identified in a recent text (Creswell, 1998) on five traditions in qualitative inquiry. Among other points, Creswell suggests that The aim of grounded theory is to generate or discover a theory The researcher has to set aside theoretical ideas to allow a "substantive" theory to emerge Theory focuses on how individuals interact in relation to the phenomenon under study Theory asserts a plausible relation between concepts and sets of concepts Theory is derived from data acquired through fieldwork interviews, observations, and documents Data analysis is systematic and begins as soon as data becomes available Data analysis proceeds through identifying categories and connecting them Further data collection (or sampling) is based on emerging concepts These concepts are developed through constant comparison with additional data Data collection can stop when new conceptualizations emerge Data analysis proceeds from "open" coding (identifying categories, properties, and dimensions) through axial coding (examining conditions, strategies, and consequences) to selective coding around an emerging story line The resulting theory can be reported in a narrative framework or as a set of propositions While we can amend or extend this list, it does convey some of the main tenets usually identified with grounded theory. As grounded theory becomes more popular and influential, we can expect summaries of this sort to become commonplace. Given the uncertainties that afflict social research and the knowledge it produces, there is something undeniably reassuring in the identification and repetition of key points setting out a methodological perspective. However, in this chapter, I suggest that a conventional summary of this kind provides only a very partial answer to the question: what is grounded theory? In fact, there are different and inconsistent

answers, depending on where we look for one.