

Phase 1:

An early career research scholarship from the Wellbeing of Women Charity supported the first phase of my doctorate work. I used mixed methods to increase my understanding of midwives' beliefs and attitudes regarding birth trauma..

Five key themes were identified: one of these was "midwives feel shame" when women sustain severe birth trauma.

Quotes from midwives:

"I think in the past it used to be shameful to get a 3rd degree tear"

"I think it is the nature of passionate people such as midwives, that we feel responsible for anything that happens"

Phase 2:

Aim and Objectives: to explore midwives' views in more depth, to understand how to support changes to improve maternal health.

Taking time:



Access Doctoral College Workshops

Attend External course on Qualitative Research Methods

Current Covid - 19 Pandemic:



Impact of the Pandemic on the workload of NHS staff, as busy providing care

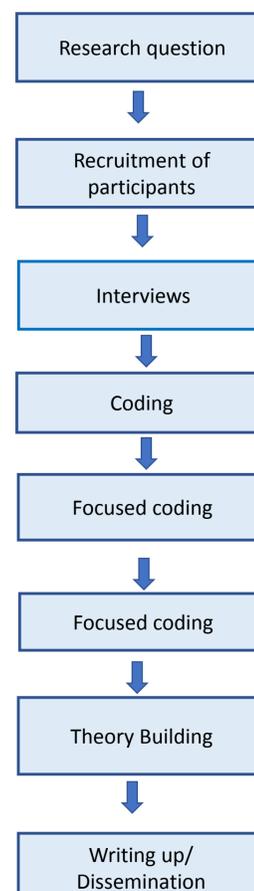
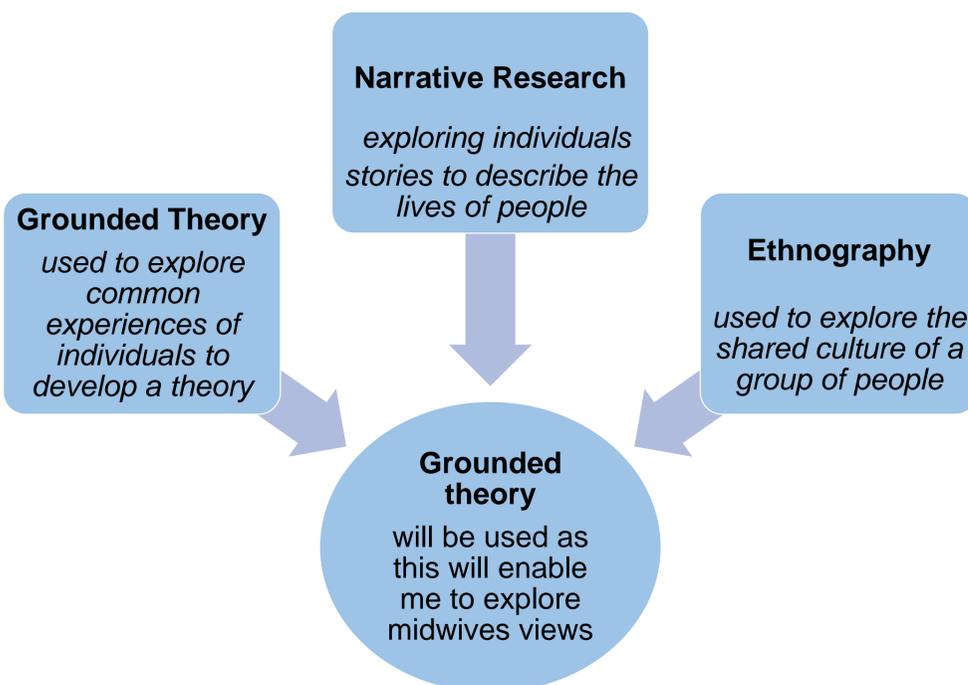
Face to face contact needs to be minimised (Image BHF 2020)

Deciding which approach to use:

Narrative research is often used in historical research
Ethnography is used to gain a deeper understanding of the behaviour of groups
Grounded theory is appropriate to explore individual midwives views. It uses constant comparative analysis rather than thematic analysis.

Ethical approval:

BU Ethics and Health Research Approval (HRA) will be obtained prior to commencing data collection.



Constant Comparative Method

Recruitment strategy:

Invitation to participate will be disseminated through Practice Development Midwives.

Purposeful sample - To recruit those with the relevant experience, then a theoretical sample depending on the theory that is potentially emerging.

Method and Analysis:

Semi structured interviews.
Use of topic guide to explore midwives' views.
Data collection and analysis will be undertaken concurrently in order to generate a theory.

References

British Heart Foundation. 2020. Coronavirus image, <https://www.bhf.org.uk/-/media/new-site-images/for-professionals/healthcare-professionals/covid19/coronavirus-3d-render-770x510.jpg> accessed 15.11.20
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