

“Enriching Qualitative Inquiry in Health”

UCL Qualitative Health Research Symposium 2015: Call for abstracts

Interest is growing in qualitative approaches to health research. This is a welcome endorsement of its contributions. However, there may be tensions between the philosophies and practices of qualitative approaches, and those of a prevailing, quantitatively-oriented health research culture. Some projects navigate the terrain well, while others leave qualitative researchers discouraged around the pursuits of applicability, value, and relevance.

Qualitative research groups at UCL’s Department of Applied Health Research, the Health Behaviour Research Centre (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health) and the Division of Psychiatry hold regular meetings to grapple with these issues. Building on the success of a jointly hosted 2013 symposium, we are organising a second symposium to:

- (1) Examine work that recognises the value of qualitative perspectives, approaches, and methods for the study of health, illness, and care
- (2) Foster critical thinking around the limitations, obstacles, and challenges in fulfilling its potential
- (3) Work towards conceptualising an enriched landscape for qualitative research on health, illness, and care.

While not limited to the following topics, we are particularly interested in reflections on:

- Ways that researchers navigate, consider, and apply qualitative approaches
- Insights qualitative approaches have brought to research on health, illness, and care
- Challenges advancing qualitative perspectives within academia, and between academic and non-academic settings
- Enriching qualitative contributions by drawing on new concepts and methods
- Expanding the contributions of qualitative approaches to healthcare policy and practice

We invite abstract submissions from any discipline. Submissions should include an abstract (maximum 350 words), affiliation, and full contact information. **The deadline is Monday 1 December, 2014.** Please submit abstracts to Ms Yana Kitova at y.kitova@ucl.ac.uk and include “Qualitative symposium 2015 abstract submission” in the subject header. Submissions will be considered for oral and poster presentations. For more information on the conference or questions about submitting an abstract, please contact Dr Lesley McGregor, at l.mcgregor@ucl.ac.uk or Mr Henry Llewellyn at h.llewellyn@ucl.ac.uk.