

Doing classic grounded theory methodology in information systems research: How to create and sustain transparency?

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Abstract:

Information Systems (IS) field is fast growing. There is increase application of Classic Grounded theory (CGT) methodology in the Information Systems (ISs) studies. However, "how to create and sustain transparency when using Classic Grounded theory in studies is still answered." The Classic Grounded Theory [CGT] research method reveals latent patterns of human behaviour. It is a general research methodology because it makes use of all kinds of data. Whether the data are qualitative or quantitative, CGT main objective is to discover a robust empirically derived hypothesis or core variable. The core variable articulates the main concern of the respondents. It is so called because the core variable is able to explain most of the variation in the data. The particular feature of the CGT research method is that it is transcendent of both time and place. This is because CGT delivers a conceptual explanation rather than a low level descriptive context based narrative. As the number of IS researchers using CGT increases so does the likelihood for more confusion regarding the legitimate criteria for its evaluation. To contribute towards eliminating the confusion, this paper investigates how to create and sustain transparency in IS research when using the Classic Grounded Theory research method. This will, hopefully, enable IS researchers, supervisors and respective institutions to make more informed decisions on how to evaluate research, which has used the CGT research methodology.

Keywords: Classic Grounded Theory, transparency, theoretical sensitivity, theoretical memos, Classic Grounded Theory evaluation