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**PERSPECTIVE**

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## **NURSE: AM I A QUALITATIVE, QUANTITATIVE, OR MIXED METHOD RESEARCHER?**

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Just because we are very critical in particular claim or practice within the qualitative or quantitative approach, it does not mean we can claim ourselves as qualitative or quantitative researchers. Although some researchers that are educated in quantitative reasoning and statistical operations may find it difficult to learn about qualitative methods; or a qualitative researcher may feel intimidated by the mathematical knowledge required for the quantitative analysis.<sup>1</sup> We basically cannot separate the world of qualitative and quantitative, for instance, quantitative researchers rely on language to interpret the results of their statistical tests, while qualitative researchers, sometimes unconsciously, will suggest an amount,

frequency, or magnitude now and then in their prosaic write-ups.<sup>1</sup>

However, to combine all of these two worlds in research may be challenging, particularly about the philosophy underpinning. Those who embrace positivism, numbers exemplify a realistic perspective. Positivism is referred to as scientific method or science research, is based on the rationalistic and reflects a deterministic philosophy in which causes probably determine effects or outcomes.<sup>2</sup> Positivism is most commonly aligned with quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. Meanwhile, those embracing interpretivism /constructivism tend to rely upon the participants views of the studied being studied and recognizes the impact on the research of their own background and experiences. The constructivist/ interpretivist researcher is most likely to rely on

qualitative data collection methods and analysis and mixed method.<sup>2</sup>

These different paradigms and assumptions, however, result on paradigmatic issues raised by mixed methods research that remain unresolved. Indeed, one cannot prove paradigms, and paradigmatic debates can never be resolved.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, we may not be appropriate to brand ourselves as qualitative, quantitative, or mixed method researcher since there is no necessary congruence between those different dimensions, assumptions, and paradigms. It does not matter in what methods used in our study, the only thing we need to focus on is how to answer research questions, solve research problems, and reach the objective of the study. The last is how our research is useful for better humankind.

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All authors contributed equally in this article.

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