QESymposium 2019 - Organised parallel sessions

*Please note that this document includes the details of organised parallel sessions only. The details of parallel sessions presenting individual oral submissions are available on the [Symposium website](https://qesymposium.org).*

**Parallel session 2**

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| “Same Same But Different”: the intersecting worlds of theory, arts and practice | 1. To share different experiences with the development of real world evidence from the Arts and Humanities approaches to Health and Sciences.  
2. To debate how the Medical Humanities – qualitative evidence presented under different formats (i.e. poetry, films, narratives, art exhibitions, literature) – can help us forge humanising practices in health and beyond.  
3. To debate what can the Medical Humanities tell us about complex situations in the translational worlds of health, education and policy-making to help us commit with collective decision-making to tackle the SDGs | Presentations [10 min] followed by question and answer session [25 min] with all participants to discuss the session’s objectives | Chair: Sharmila Sousa, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Fernanda Severo, Brazil  
- Rita Dayoub, United Kingdom / Syria  
- Trisha Bester, South Africa |

**Parallel session 4**

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| Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research Policymaker roundtable: strengthening institutional capacity to demand, produce and use qualitative evidence | 1. To describe policymakers’ experiences in accessing and using qualitative evidence in decision making  
2. To discuss ways of strengthening institutional capacity across sectors to demand, produce and use qualitative evidence | • Brief introduction by the co-chairs  
• Inputs from the panellists (30 mins)  
• Discussion among the panellists (20 mins), with discussant, Tamara Lotfi  
• Open discussion with the audience (25 mins)  
• Summing up (5 mins) | Co-chairs: Velia Manyonga, Malawi and Simon Lewin, Norway / South Africa  
Panellists:  
- Evelina Chapman, WHO EURO, Denmark  
- Fabu Moses, Guyana  
- Peninah Khisa, Kenya  
- Tamara Lotfi, Lebanon  
- Velia Manyonga, Malawi |
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| Bridging qualitative data and decision-making in human rights               | To debate different experiences on how to inform decision-making in human rights with the use of qualitative methodologies and data | Presentations from the speakers followed by discussion                                                                   | Chair: Laura Boeira, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Ângelo Brandelli Costa, Brazil  
- Carolina Ramirez, Brazil  
- Caroline Reis, Brazil  
- Thais Duarte, Brazil |

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| How can qualitative evidence strengthen evidence-informed policy making?   | Knowledge exchange on how to build a culture of using many kinds of evidence to inform decision-making, focused on qualitative evidence | Roundtable discussions with invited speakers with expertise in evidence-informed policy. Each speaker will have a 15-minute slot to make a short presentation, and then proceed to call all speakers to have an open discussion guided by the questions and considerations sent by participants | Chair: Daniela Fortunato Rêgo, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Camile Sachetti, Brazil  
- Guilherme Franco Netto, Brazil  
- John Lavis, Canada  
- Ludovic Reveiz, PAHO, USA |

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| Narratives and counter-narratives on health policy-making in Africa: value of citizens’ voices through qualitative discourse | 1. Illustrate how qualitative evidence has influenced the narratives on policy-making, including health governance and advocacy at country and local levels.  
2. Describe the relative strength of qualitative methods in “speaking truth to power”: capturing multiple perspectives from citizens and the powerless, including gender equity.  
3. Facilitate discussion on novel or alternative means in which qualitative evidence can be applied, in the three cases from Africa and other contexts. | • Panel presentation, from 3 subregions in Africa  
• Group discussion on 3 case studies: Universal health coverage, immunization, health workers  
• Fishbowl discussion on the following topics: (1) What are emerging principles that can guide the use of qualitative evidence in policy-making? (2) How does qualitative evidence inform an understanding of gender and equity in ways that other forms of evidence cannot? (3) How can these lessons extend beyond the health sector to other areas of social change? | Chair: Ravi M Ram, Kenya  
Speakers:  
- John Mahama, Ghana  
- Kingsley Pereko, Ghana  
- Linda Shuro, South Africa  
- Peninah Khisa, Kenya  
- Ravi M Ram, Kenya |
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| Using qualitative evidence in impact evaluation | • Review fundamentals of impact evaluation and causal inference (purpose, challenges, considerations)  
• Present examples of using qualitative evidence to enhance insights, inferences, and transferability of impact evaluations.  
• Briefly introduce 3ie as an organization | Presentation followed by open discussion period/Q&A | Chair: Douglas Glandon, USA  
**Speakers:**  
• Anca Dumitrescu, USA  
• Douglas Glandon, USA |

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| Looking for a multidisciplinary virtuous circle in health care policy implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean | To provide a series of experiences on policy implementation based on qualitative research developed in Latin America and the Caribbean, collecting the experience of people working in the Evidence to Action Thematic Working Group of Health Systems Global (E2A TWG).  
The aim of the proposal departs from the idea that the policy making process in health care involves a multidisciplinary interaction of actors who are required to establish a sound agenda of evidence based interventions. Such diagnosis should be leading to the formulation of a program or reform, which success relies on its legitimacy as well as on a robust implementation plan. Its follow-up and evaluation would provide new learnings for improving efficiency, facilitating community participation and assuring equity. | • Introduction of moderator and experts (5 mins)  
• Presentation on how Health Systems Global and E2A TWG support evidence use in policy and practice (10 mins)  
• Presentation by each panelist (45 mins)  
• Discussion between moderator and panelists focused on broad context of how evidenced-based policy is shaped and influenced by various actors (10 mins)  
• Audience ‘question and answer’ (20 mins) | Chair: Dan Maceira, Argentina  
**Speakers:**  
• Cristián Mansilla, Chile  
• Emily Vargas Riaño, Mexico  
• Fabu Moses, Guyana  
• Irene Rodríguez Salas, Costa Rica |
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| A ‘glocal’ perspective on the SDGs: perceptions from local groups and populations | The session will focus on how groups that are often marginalised perceive and relate to the SDGs and are working to ensure that they can participate in the implementation of actions to address the SDGs. What role can qualitative evidence play in this process in terms of the tools and knowledge used by these groups (rather than a researcher perspective)? | Round table discussion with the speakers sharing their experiences, and participants can then engage | Chair: Ulysses Panisset, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Everardo Aguiar, Brazil  
- Marta Giane Machado Torres, Brazil  
- Richarlls Martins, Brazil  
- Stephani Montesanti, Canada |

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| From Digital Health to the SDGs: bridging development and implementation with qualitative evidence | To share different experiences on the development of digital health interventions for the SDGs, and to debate how qualitative methodologies and evidence can contribute to understanding and theorising their impacts (or likely impacts) at both public and private sectors - i.e. what does qualitative evidence tell us about some of the factors that may affect the implementation of these kinds of interventions? | - Introductions  
- Presentations by the speakers [10 mins each]  
- Small group discussion [30 mins] on the following: (1) How can we pair qualitative evidence and (big) data science to bridge the gaps in digital health development? (2) How can we pair qualitative evidence with big data science to solve some of the barriers to digital health implementation and monitoring (evaluation) in the public and private sectors? (3) How can we pair qualitative evidence and (big) data science to foster Precision Medicine initiatives?  
- Feedback and general discussion [30 mins] | Chair: Sharmila Sousa, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Atila Rodrigues, Brazil,  
- Claire Glenton, Norway  
- Edson Amaro, Brazil  
- Simon Lewin, Norway and South Africa |
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| Embedding co-production in evidence synthesis for decision making | This session will present different approaches to co-production/co-creation amongst various stakeholders to support policy making and share their experiences for embedding co-production in policy and decision making-relevant evidence synthesis within both public and private sectors | This session will consist of 3-4 presentations followed by discussion. Presenters will provide brief inputs in 3 areas: 1. Key features of the co-production approaches within their organizations 2. Case studies to demonstrate the application of the co-production approach in practice 3. Reflections on how these approaches/models facilitate evidence use to inform policy and decision-making (positives and negatives) | Chair: Sharmila Sousa, Brazil  
Speakers:  
- Harsha Dayal, South Africa  
- Laurenz Langer, South Africa  
- Nilcéia Lopes, Brazil |