


# Chapter 10

## An Examination of Phenomenological Research Design for Doctoral Students

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### ABSTRACT

*This chapter discusses the benefits and barriers to adopting a phenomenological research design for a qualitative dissertation from a graduate candidate's perspective. The chapter addresses topics such as the exploration of topics in qualitative design, including a human-centered approach to research and theory generation, while evaluating the cons of phenomenological designs, for example, subjectivity, limited generalizability, research time, and difficulty with replication of results. Eight subtypes of phenomenological research are discussed, exploring their main theorists, the focus of the subtype, analysis of the subtype, and a benefits assessment for each subtype. The design explorations allow for insight into data collection procedures of phenomenological studies; the following are included: how to collect data, fa-*

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*miliarization, procedures for initial coding, generating themes, theme development, and theme naming. After coding is discussed, researchers are presented with an overview of the narrative write-up process.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The chapter explores the core principles of phenomenology. This qualitative research approach seeks to understand individuals' lived experiences. It provides approaches to ensure that the stories communicated by the participants in the study communicate and link participant perspectives to provide a structure for a wholistic research study that follows the scientific method, strengths, and limitations of phenomenological research, providing a balanced view of its applicability and challenges in various contexts will be discussed to ensure that the researcher can ensure the considerations of the methodology when used within the structure of a study. Through this exploration, the reader will understand how phenomenological research can elucidate the complexities of human experience and how it can be effectively employed to enhance research endeavors. The chapter's main objective is to explore phenomenological research designs explicitly for use in qualitative doctoral research.

### **Eight Types of Phenomenological Research**

Phenomenological research encompasses diverse approaches, each offering unique insights into the study of human experience. However, they differ and vary in their philosophical underpinnings, methodological procedures, and the extent to which they emphasize description versus interpretation. This discussion delves into eight phenomenological methodologies: descriptive, interpretative, existential, transcendental, psychological, hermeneutic, heuristic, and ethnographic. Each approach, grounded in the works of seminal theorists such as Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Clark Moustakas, and Max van Manen, among others, provides varied lenses through which to investigate specific phenomena. Exploring main contributions and theoretical underpinnings of these approaches, alongside their respective strengths and limitations, an inclusive overview of phenomenological research will be presented, highlighting the adaptability and depth of phenomenological research to capture the complexities of human experience.

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