



Qualitative Media Analysis (Qualitative Research Methods)

By David L. Altheide, Christopher J. Schneider

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In order to prepare a successful research project, a qualitative researcher often must consult media documents of various types. Authors David L. Altheide and Christopher J. Schneider show readers how to obtain, categorize, and analyze these different media documents in this entry in the **Qualitative Research Methods** series. They look at traditional primary documents such as newspapers and magazines but also at more recent forms--television newscasts and cyberspace. The use of student examples of research protocols makes this book a useful primer in deriving meaning from the bombardment of media documents a qualitative researcher faces.

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Qualitative Media Analysis (Qualitative Research Methods) By David L. Altheide, Christopher J. Schneider Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1020515 in Books
- Brand: Brand: SAGE Publications, Inc
- Published on: 2012-10-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.40" h x .50" w x 5.50" l, .44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 168 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

It's the only "how to" book of its kind out there. (Lisa Duke Cornell *Editorial*)

It explains how to do qualitative textual analysis in a way that is laid out step-by-step, making it clear to students how to do it. (Melissa Wall *Editorial*)

It's short and to the point, covering a lot of ground quickly. I have always been able to justify it on a syllabus because it reads well and fast, it not too expensive, and it gives novices clear guidance. Personally, I'm also 100 percent simpatico with Professor Altheide theoretically and philosophically. More important, he does make it relevant to communication theory as well as practice. (Kim Golombisky *Editorial*)

The main strength is its focus on "media", applied researchers are rapidly shifting their attention to multiple sources of data and focusing on how people and organizations communicate. Social media is also influencing marketing and public relations activities. It IS the hot topic....helping researchers figure out how to target, capture, analyze and interpret these new forms of media is essential. (Kay Davis *Editorial*)

The key strength of *Qualitative Media Analysis* is that it provides students and scholars with a rigorous, social science-based, qualitative alternative to quantitative content analysis, allowing for better and deeper interpretation of media texts. The methodology outlined by Altheide is particularly useful for the examination of previously unstudied media, where no theory and/or previous data exist to inform content analysis protocols. (Colleen Connolly-Ahern *Pre-published review*)

About the Author

DAVID L. ALTHEIDE is Emeritus Regents' Professor on the faculty of Justice and Social Inquiry in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University, where he taught for 37 years since receiving his PhD from the University of California, San Diego. His work has focused on the role of mass media and information technology in social control. His most recent book is *Terror Post 9/11 and the Media* (Lang, 2009). Dr. Altheide received the Cooley Award three times, given to the outstanding book in symbolic interaction, from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction: In 2007 for *Terrorism and the Politics of Fear* (2006); in 2004 for *Creating Fear: News and the Construction of Crisis* (2002); and in 1986 for *Media Power* (1985). Dr. Altheide received the 2005 George Herbert Mead Award for lifetime contributions from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, and the society's Mentor Achievement Award in 2007. Altheide is married (Carla) and has two children (Tasha and Tod), and four grandchildren.

CHRISTOPHER J. SCHNEIDER is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan (UBCO) campus where he has taught since receiving his PhD from Arizona State University in 2008. His work investigates mass media messages about crime, deviance, popular music, and information technologies in daily life. He has published articles and book chapters and co-edited a special issue of *Studies in Symbolic Interaction* in these areas. He was the recipient of the UBCO 2010/2011 *Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation – Junior Faculty* and the 2009/2010 *Provost's Public Education Through Media Award*. His research and commentary have been featured in more than 200 print, radio, and television news media outlets across North America, including *The New York Times* and *The Globe and Mail*, among others. In 2002 he received the Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award from the Critical

Criminologist Division of The American Society of Criminology. Schneider is married, has an English bulldog, likes baseball, and is an avid fan of the rock band Model Stranger.

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