



# GROUNDING THEORY REVIEW

## An international journal

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Editor's Comments

Judith Holton

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# The Grounded Theory Review: An international journal

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## Publisher's Note

Sociology Press is pleased to publish The Grounded Theory Review. Our primary goal in publishing this journal is to provide a forum for classic grounded theory scholarship. To this end, we will focus our efforts on:

- publishing good examples of the grounded theories being developed in a wide range of disciplines
- publishing papers on classic grounded theory methodology
- creating a world-wide network of grounded theory researchers and scholars
- providing a forum for sharing perspectives and enabling novice grounded theorists to publish their work
- promoting dialogue between authors and readers of the journal

- Barney G. Glaser, Ph.D., Hon. Ph.D.

## Editor's Comments

One of our goals in this journal is to present the work of novice grounded theorists so it is a pleasure to feature three such papers in this issue. The fact that the three papers come from three distinct disciplines and three different continents is a testament to the broad application and interest in grounded theory. The three papers also illustrate the developmental learning curve of classic grounded theory (GT).

Katrina Maloney's paper on *Adventuring* takes us into the substantive field of science education and offers a rich conceptual description of an emergent core concept, detailing

its dimensions and sub-categories. Maloney suggests that her theory challenges current thinking and theory in science education and offers insight into changes necessary to enhance the field. She hints as well at the transcendent potential of her core category beyond science education. Her paper is an excellent start at GT that could be enhanced by further conceptual memoing, hand sorting and emergent theoretical coding to integrate her core and related concepts into a grounded theory with appropriate parsimony and scope.

In the paper on *Doing Best for Children*, we see a similar stage of conceptual development. Here authors Ruth Freeman and colleagues Richard Ekins and Michele Oliver, readily acknowledge the limitations of their study as part of a larger qualitative research project with a preconceived professional concern that limited their ability to employ the full scope of classic GT procedures and, as such, hindered the emergence of a full grounded theory. Nevertheless, Freeman and colleagues have offered us a most interesting “emerging theory” that suggests a typology of sugar snacking regulation strategies. Their paper demonstrates how the imposition of a preconceived professional concern on a research study can mask what’s really going on. However, their awareness of classic GT and their ability to utilize even selected GT procedures in coding and analyzing the study data enabled the emergence of the main concern of parents interviewed – doing best for their children – and offers several responses to doing so. Given the increasing concern with childhood obesity, their emerging theory warrants further development.

Keith Ng’s theory of *Managing Collaborative Synergy* proposes a basic social process (BSP) that explains how managers in the crane manufacturing industry develop collaborative strategies for optimizing their respective corporate interests. His theory suggests a three phase process that explains the how managers position their firms within the industry, develop confidence in potential inter-firm partnerships and consolidate their collaboration to achieve long-term mutual benefits.

Theoretical coding remains a mystery for some and a challenge for many in doing GT so we are pleased to round out this issue with two papers that explore this issue in more depth. First, to refresh our understanding of perhaps the most widely utilized theoretical code in GT; we present a classic paper by Dr. Glaser on *Basic Social Processes*. The paper is an updated version of an earlier paper that was published as Chapter 6 of **Theoretical Sensitivity** (Glaser, 1978). Lastly, in the *Grounded Theory Bookshelf*, Dr. Alvita Nathaniel offers an insightful review of Dr Glaser's new book, **The Grounded Theory Perspective III: Theoretical Coding** (Glaser, 2005).

- Judith Holton

## **Submissions**

All papers submitted are peer reviewed and comments provided back to the authors. Papers accepted for publication will be good examples or practical applications of grounded theory and classic grounded theory methodology.

Comments on papers published are also welcomed, will be shared with the authors and may be published in subsequent issues of the Review.

See our website [www.groundtheoryreview.com](http://www.groundtheoryreview.com) for full submission guidelines.

Forward submissions as Word documents to Judith Holton at [Judith@groundedtheoryreview.com](mailto:Judith@groundedtheoryreview.com)