

## From the Editor's Desk

Sandra Kane

As the new school year approaches, I find myself thinking about the familiar mix of excitement and nerves that fills this time of year. The air shifts, the evenings cool, and there is a sense of anticipation that feels both new and deeply remembered. Young people gather their supplies, check their schedules, and wonder what the year will bring. Parents feel that quiet tug of hope and worry. Instructors prepare their classrooms and imagine the faces they will meet. It is a season of beginnings, and it always carries a little bit of angst along with the promise.

This time of year often brings me back to my own childhood memories of returning to school. So much has changed since then. The technology, the pace, the expectations, the ways students connect with one another. Yet so much has stayed the same. The feeling of stepping into something unknown. The desire to belong. The curiosity about what lies ahead. The small rituals that mark the transition from summer to fall. These constants remind me that while the world shifts around us, the core concerns that shape human experience remain surprisingly steady.

Here at the *Grounded Theory Review* (GTR), this seasonal reflection feels fitting as we prepare an upcoming series that we are excited to share with our readers. Over the next several months, we will revisit classic grounded theories developed more than half a century ago and pair them with articles and editorials that explore how human concerns

evolve, how they stay the same, and how Glaserian classic grounded theory (GCGT) continues to capture patterned behavior across time.

When Glaser and Strauss introduced classic grounded theory in 1967, they showed how conceptual analysis could reveal the underlying main concern that drives participants' behavior. Many of those early theories on dying trajectories, awareness contexts, chronic illness, organizational life, and professional socialization were developed in social environments that differ greatly from today's. Yet the concerns at the heart of those theories often remain familiar. People still navigate uncertainty, manage identity, negotiate roles, and seek control. What has changed are the social conditions, technologies, and cultural expectations that shape how these concerns are resolved.

This new series will take a close look at classic grounded theories through a methodological lens, focusing on ideas such as modifiability, generalizability, and applicability. Rather than engaging in direct comparisons with contemporary grounded theories, we will consider how these methodological principles help illuminate the enduring strength of Glaserian classic grounded theory's conceptualization. GCGT does not describe people in a moment in time; it conceptualizes what they are doing to resolve their main concern, which allows its theories to remain relevant across decades.

At the same time, this series will explore how societal trends such as digital communication, globalization, demographic change, new forms of work, and evolving institutional norms shape the emergence of new concerns or influence how long-standing concerns are processed. Looking at Glaserian classic grounded theories across time offers a clearer picture of what has changed and what has remained stable in human behavior.

We are also excited about the teaching value of this initiative. Many new grounded theorists encounter GCGT studies only through citations. Revisiting these theories in depth, and comparing them with contemporary work and methodological tenets, reinforces the importance of identifying the main concern, generating conceptual categories, and articulating a core category that explains patterned behavior. It reminds us that GCGT is not a thematic method. It is a conceptual one, and its products are meant to endure.

As GTR prepares this series, we look forward to offering readers a thoughtful exploration of grounded theories from previous generations. This initiative honors the legacy of GCGT while celebrating the creativity and rigor of grounded theorists working today. We are pleased to bring this work forward and to deepen our shared understanding of how human concerns continue to unfold over time.

So pour yourself a hot cup of cocoa, the kind with the little marshmallows that melt right into the cocoa before you even notice, settle under a soft blanket, or nestle up to a cozy little fire on those cool evenings, and join us on this adventure.

Respectfully submitted,

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Editor – Grounded Theory Review

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