

engaging crystallization in qualitative research: An introduction.



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A Book Review of Laura Ellingson's Crystallization in Qualitative Research: An Introduction

[Ronald J. Cugno, Nova Southeastern University](#)

[Kathy Thomas, Nova Southeastern University](#)

Abstract

Ellingson (2009) might be the first qualitative researcher to introduce "crystallization" as a formalized sub-methodology for conducting research using a nontraditional approach. For Ellingson "crystallization" is a process of including, interweaving, blending, or otherwise drawing together different genres of expressing data" (p. 11). Epistemologically, Ellingson's social constructivist approach moves her notion of crystallization from a traditional positivism on one end and radical interpretivism on the other to a qualitative research continuum. She looks beyond the traditional qualitative research to present crystallization as a "radical way of knowing" (Ellis & Ellingson, 2000, p. 30; Ellingson, 2009) by using the metaphors of a crystal and a quilt to describe the process. She advocates for researchers to interpret meaning from their personal experiences through poetry, film, theater, dialogues, and other creative methods.

Keywords

Immersion, Crystallization, Grounded Theory, Intermediary Research, Communication Research Methods, Qualitative Research

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Cites per doc		0.82
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Dr. Ronald J. Cugno is a program professor at the Nova S Fischler School of Education and Human Services. Dr. Cugno has 25 years of teaching experience working with in the PK-12 public schools. He received his master's degree in school administration from Nova Southeastern University, and terminal degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University. His areas of interests include: educational school development, at-risk populations, and foster care system. He can be reached at cugno@nova.edu and at 954 (262) 8431.

A. Thomas is a program professor at the Nova Southeastern School of Education and Human Services. Dr. Thomas has 20 years of teaching experience, working with children in youth in public classrooms, secure juvenile facilities, and residential treatment centers. She received her master's degree in education from Tufts University and her Ph.D. in justice from Northeastern University. Her areas of interest include: school development, juvenile justice, child abuse & neglect, classifying and educating high-risk youth with emotional and behavioral problems, aging out of the system, and homeless women and children. She can be reached at thomask@nova.edu and at 954 (262) 8431.

Publication Date

5-11-2009

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Recommended APA Citation

Cugno, R. J., & Thomas, K. (2009). A Book Review of Laura Ellwood's *Crystallization in Qualitative Research: An Introduction*. *The Qualitative Report*, 14(2), 115. Retrieved from <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol14/iss2/>

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Original volume and issue number from *The Qualitative Report* publication of *The Qualitative Report* which has been folded into this journal: Volume 2, Issue 19

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