... with **Victoria Clarke**

'put down your data and go out for a walk'

One place
I'm lucky to live somewhere very beautiful – a small town on the southern edge of the Cotswolds. Going for an evening walk, hearing cows mooing… On my first family holiday in the Cotswolds as a teenager I fell in love with the landscape, and remember thinking 'I want to live here'.

One book
Changing the Subject by Julian Henriques and colleagues. Read over and over, and highlighted in all the colours of the rainbow, as a student. It fundamentally changed my view of what psychology could and should be.

One documentary
I use Jennie Livingston's fabulous documentary *Paris is Burning* (1990) about the drag ball culture of the black and Latino gay and trans community in New York in the 1980s to teach students about the social construction of gender and sexuality, and gender performativity, and the importance of thinking intersectionally.

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One tool
Mindfulness. More often an aspiration than an achievement. But an amazing tool for managing stress, focusing on what's important, and skilful living.

One challenge for qualitative psychology
Demand among students for qualitative research supervision far outstrips the number of supervisors with qualitative expertise.

One cultural recommendation
The film *Pride*, based on the true story of a group of lesbian and gay activists who raised money to help support miners and their families during the miner's strike in 1984–1985. It is both delightfully funny and poignant.

One nugget of advice for aspiring qualitative psychologists
I love Ruben and Ruben's (1995) characterisation of qualitative interviews as 'on target while hanging loose' in their book *Qualitative Interviewing*. That you have a general sense of where you want to go in mind, but you're flexible about how you get there (or indeed, ending up somewhere slightly different). I always refer to this in teaching – it seems to help students grasp the ethos of qualitative research.

One nugget of advice for supervising and teaching qualitative psychology
I find that students have little or no conception of the messy 'realities' of qualitative research at first, and this can be hugely anxiety provoking ('I'm doing it all wrong!'). Trying to 'normalise' the mess and share anxieties can help to build confidence.

One publication you are proud of
Right now I'd say my book *Successful Qualitative Research* (Sage), co-authored with my friend and colleague Virginia Braun. It was something of an epic undertaking to write an authored text covering all the basics of the entire qualitative research journey.

One hope for the future
Greater understanding and acceptance of qualitative research. Things have changed a lot even in the relatively short period of time I have been a qualitative psychologist, not least with the establishment of the Qualitative Methods in Psychology Section of the BPS, but there is still some way to go. It would be great to see qualitative methods being taught alongside quantitative methods from day one on undergraduate psychology programmes.

One source of irritation
The assumption that (good) qualitative research involves 'code books', inter-rater reliability scores and other measures to establish coding 'reliability'. In other words, providing a partial and highly selective map of the terrain of qualitative research but presenting it as the definitive map. I'd like to see greater recognition of the diversity and complexity of qualitative research in attempts to map the terrain in the future.

One thing you like about qualitative research
A sense of play, fun even, and creativity, particular when analysing (qualitative) data. Analysing data is like having a puzzle to solve. Not in the sense that the analysis is hiding in the data waiting to be found (an assumption that is another source of irritation!), but in the sense that you need to generate a framework for your analysis that pulls together your key analytic insights in a coherent and compelling way. Ideally, with a bit of creativity injected to into it (I am rather fond of theme and paper titles that reference popular culture or play on popular sayings).

One thing that you would change about psychology
A greater recognition that – as critical psychologist Ian Parker (2005) has put it – 'what is "inside" is dependent on what is "outside"'.

One final thought
Good qualitative research requires time to think and reflect. So put down your data and go out for a walk!

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