
Formulating research questions

March 6, 2023

Why?

- To organize the research, give it direction and coherence
 - To delimit the project, showing its boundaries
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How?

- Focused, but not too narrow
 - Accessible: not too abstract
 - Relevant and useful
 - Interesting and inspiring to the researcher
 - Feasible, given the resources available
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Where to start?

- The origin of the research question (and research topic in general) is often found from the researcher's biography, social context or experiences (problem driven) or from a practical need or earlier research.
 - It should be an actual question, not a statement: a real question with a clear focus, formulated in concrete terms, with the aim of clarifying.
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Examples

- What if old age could be configured differently?
 - How does co-creating as an artistic philosophy generate better understanding of the design practice itself?
 - What possibilities does co-creating bring to the artistic process in relation to working?
 - How the presence of the ruins affects the experience of modern Vyborg and how this experience can be understood and transmitted through the practice of contemporary art?
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Readings

Flick, U. (2010). Research Questions. In U. Flick, *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* (4th ed., pp. 97–104). SAGE.

Laing, K. (2015). Constructing research questions: doing interesting research. *International Journal of Research & Method in Education*, 38(2), 219–220.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1743727x.2015.1005803>
