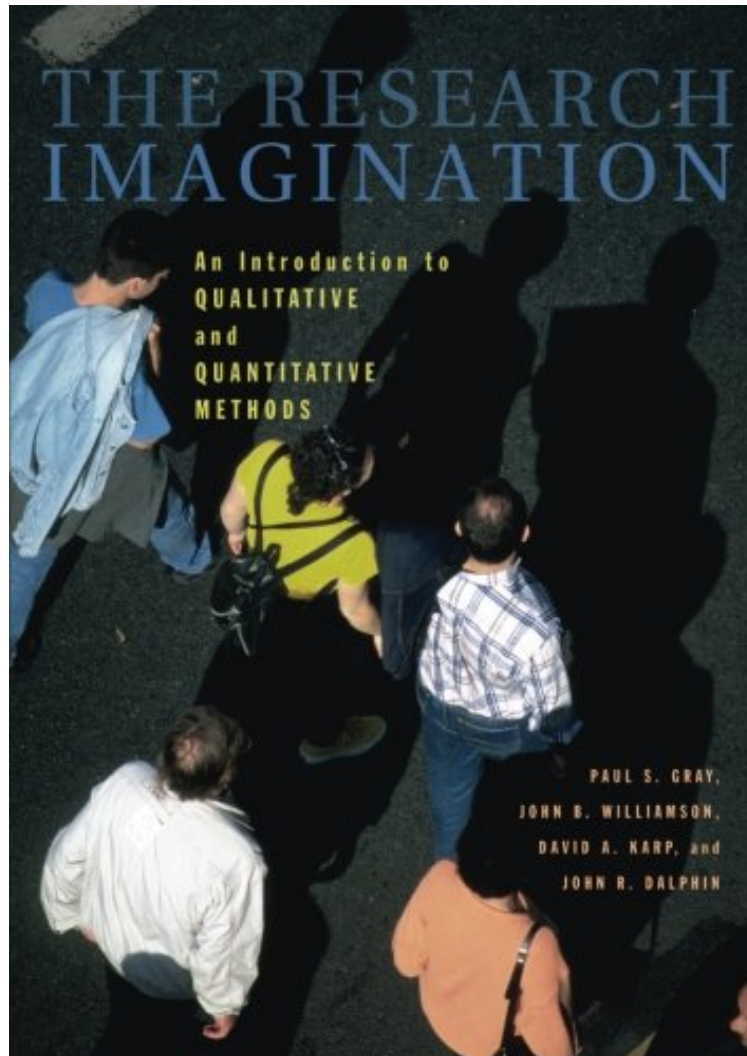


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The Research Imagination: An Introduction to Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

Paul S. Gray, John B. Williamson, David A. Karp, John R. Dalphin
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(Qualitative and Quantitative methodologies combined) can be well-adapted to historical research, with quantitative methods reflecting the growing work in quantitative historical methods, as well as traditional qualitative narrative. The tools are here, and Dr. Gray's approach certainly takes jitters away from most encountering this for the first - or fiftieth - time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy bilmtn This was a very poor book, not written well and didn't provided the information in a clear manner. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. this is a really good book. It makes you think about alternatives and ...By ABH If you want to have some sense about the process of research, this is a really good book. It makes you think about alternatives and gives you a general idea about the entire process (from ideas, type of methods, and start the work). I will say this is not only a book regarding one field such as public policy but several in social science.

The idea that science is a blueprint for research, and imagination gives research its life and purpose inspired this comprehensive explanation of research methodology. The authors' decades of experience have revealed that research is a craft requiring judgment and creativity, not simply memorization and application of the rules of science. This book covers a wide variety of data-collection techniques, but presents them as reinforcing, rather than competing with one another, thus striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative methods and proving an essential resource for instructors and students of sociology.

About the Author Professor Paul S. Gray (BA Princeton, MA Education, Stanford) received his Ph.D. from Yale University and has taught at Boston College for 32 years. In addition to teaching, Gray also works as a business consultant specializing in leadership development and corporate citizenship. Gray is the Faculty Chair of Leadership for Change associated with Boston College's Carroll School of Management. Gray has conducted research on topics as diverse as higher education in Massachusetts and labor unions in Africa. His research has been published in *Symbolic Interaction*, *Industrial Relations*, and the *Journal of African Studies*. Professor John B. Williamson (BS Humanities and Science, MIT, Ph.D. Social Psychology, Harvard University) has taught at Boston College since 1969. He has written or co-written 15 books and over 100 journal articles and book chapters, and his writing has appeared in the *American Sociological*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Forces*, *Demography*, the *International Social Security*, the *Gerontologist*, the *Journal of Aging Studies*, the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, and *Sociological Quarterly*. He is on the board of multiple journals and societies related to the study of sociology and aging. His current research concerns the comparative international study of social security systems. Professor David A. Karp (BA Harvard, Ph.D. New York University) has taught sociology at Boston College for 30 years. Karp's 1996 work, *Speaking of Sadness* was the 1996 winner of the Charles Horton Cooley Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. His most recent research uses qualitative methods to explore the moral boundaries of caring in emotional illness and conflict, and seeks to discover the cultural resources people draw upon when confronted with this dilemma. Professor John R. Dalphin received his undergraduate degree from Holy Cross College and both his MA and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has taught at Merrimack College for over 30 years, teaching courses in population problems, research methodology, social class, and social inequality. He is also the author of a book on the perpetuation of class inequality entitled *The Persistence of Social Inequality in America*. Professor Dalphin is a member of the American Sociological Association and the New England Sociological Association.