

# QUALPOR NEWS

Spring 2026

## Happy Spring, QUALPOR Members!



*Kathleen Kephart,  
QUALPOR Co-Chair*

This Spring, we launched our first member survey in four years. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate! As AAPOR's largest affinity group, we aim to ensure our programming is as useful and relevant to your work as possible, and your input is essential to that effort.

While we have not yet conducted a complete analysis of the survey results, several themes are already clear. Many respondents are interested in learning more about how AI intersects with qualitative research, including its role in developing protocols, analyzing data, and writing reports. At the same time,

there is strong interest in exploring the ethical considerations of using AI in

qualitative work, building on discussions from recent year's AAPOR Conference Idea Groups.



*Melissa Dunn Silesky, QUALPOR Co-Chair*

QUALPOR includes members with a wide range of experience in qualitative research, from seasoned interviewers and moderators to those just starting out. As such, the survey findings also point to the continued need for practical guidance on traditional qual

methods, such as tips for conducting interviews and moderating focus groups, and producing clear, effective qualitative reports.

*Happy Spring, QUALPOR Members! continued on page 2*

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We will use these survey findings to inform our programming this year and beyond. We also always welcome additional ideas and suggestions as we work to provide programming, resources, and events that are both practical and applicable to members' work.

If you are interested in presenting at a Learning Burst, serving as a featured expert for a Coffee Chat, or becoming more involved in a QUALPOR initiative, please contact the QUALPOR co-chairs, Melissa Dunn Silesky (melissahdunn@gmail.com) and Kathleen Kephart (kathleen.kephart@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
Melissa and Kathleen

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## The Momentum Is Building: Be Part of AAPOR 2026



More than 950 public opinion and survey research professionals have already registered for the AAPOR 81st Annual Conference, and there's still time to join them in Los Angeles.

This year's program brings our community together to explore the ideas, innovations, and challenges shaping the future of public opinion research. From the opening plenary on trust and relevance, to bold Directors Cut Sessions, equity & inclusion programming, and forward-looking innovation sessions, AAPOR 2026 is designed to spark meaningful conversation and practical takeaways.

In addition, this year's program is packed with topics on qualitative research. Starting Tuesday there is both a short course and an idea group on Qualitative Research. Director's Cut Session #3 focuses on the use of LLMs for Qualitative Research, plus a number of additional sessions. See pages 10-13 in this newsletter for more information.

Be part of the momentum, connect with peers, and engage in the work that matters—now more than ever. Click [here](#) to register.

Morgan Earp  
2026 Conference Chair

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## Qualitative Research Short Course

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM - Beaudry B**

### **AI and the Future of Qualitative Research: From Human Insight to Synthetic Systems**

Andrew Stavisky, US Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Yogesh Chavda, Y2S Consulting

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming qualitative research—from how we recruit, moderate, and analyze to how we synthesize insights and generate reports. This interactive short course explores the evolving relationship between human researchers and AI systems across the qualitative research lifecycle. Participants will learn how to evaluate and apply AI-assisted analysis tools, consider where and how to integrate AI into qualitative research design, and implement human-in-the-loop frameworks to ensure transparency, rigor, and accountability.

- Identify where and how AI technologies are being applied across the qualitative research process, including recruitment, data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Evaluate the methodological strengths and limitations of AI-assisted analysis and synthetic data generation using real examples and comparative exercises.
- Apply human-in-the-loop and transparency frameworks to ensure qualitative rigor, ethical accountability, and researcher oversight in AI-augmented research.

Drawing on the complementary expertise of Andrew Stavisky, PhD (U.S. GAO) and Yogesh Chavda (Y2S Consulting), the course bridges public opinion and market research perspectives, blending methodological grounding with real-world applications. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises comparing AI and human-coded themes, review case studies of synthetic qualitative data, and leave with practical frameworks for using AI responsibly in qualitative and mixed-method contexts.

## QUALPOR Panel

**Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. — Room: Beaudry A**

### **“Qualitative Research: Fostering Engagement with Hard-to-reach & Underrepresented Participants”**

**Moderator: Melissa Dunn Silesky**

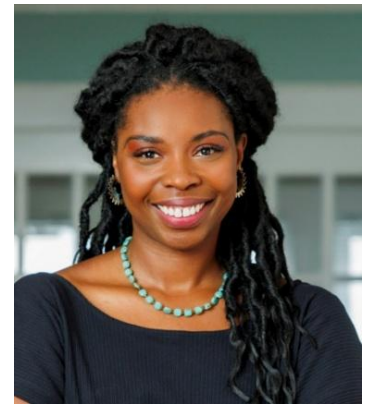
- **Kristen Conrad** – “What Teens Really Hear: Rethinking Survey Design through Cognitive Interviews”
- **Kai Fuentes** – “Increase Multicultural Participation Rate and Insights by Reframing the Screening Interview”
- **Marieke Haan** – “Tracing Family Dynamics: Integrating Qualitative and Network-Based Methods in the Study of Disinheritance”
- **Kiley Hurst** – “Same-Sex Parents Raising Kids – a Qualitative Interview Report”
- **Lila Rabinovich** – “Using Qualitative Methods to Understand Barriers to Internet Panel Participation Among Hard-to-Reach Populations”

## “Breaking Bread” and “Circling Back” When Researching Difficult-to-Reach Communities

By Kai K. Fuentes, Founder and President, Ebony Marketing Systems, Inc.

To build trust in difficult-to-reach communities, you need to think beyond the trust piece. You need to think about it as building relationships. At Ebony Marketing Systems, this relationship building begins even before recruiting with a step we call “breaking bread.” Let me show what breaking bread looks like.

In 2025, we did a study with the [Colorado Health Access Survey](#), where we ultimately conducted in-depth interviews with community stakeholders. But we didn’t rush into the interviews. We said, “we’re going to break bread first.” Our moderator scheduled a couple of



Kai Fuentes

Zoom calls with each stakeholder. Conversations, not interviews. Not a quick recruitment verification checklist of questions. These conversations are breaking bread — which by the way is the actual term baked into the plan.

Including the breaking-bread Zooms, this recruiting process took about four to five weeks. Yep, just the recruiting process. I know folks are going to fall over when they read that. But in-culture research with difficult-to-reach communities requires this layered building of relationships. The result? A higher completion rate with deeper findings.

After the interviews, we also closed the study in a different manner. To continue the metaphor of sharing a meal, first we broke bread with the pre-recruiting conversations then we had the actual meal or interviews. Then after the study we came back to share the findings with the interviewees. It reminds me of a beautiful word in Spanish, *sobremesa*, the relaxed conversations that happen around the table after a meal. That word doesn’t have a direct translation in English, but we all know that experience of lingering with people that we have built a relationship with.

Once again, we scheduled Zoom calls to share the findings. But it can also be done in person if you’re close-by. Or even a respectfully worded email. That circling back is one critical piece that a lot of folks forget. If you’re interviewing, surveying, studying a particular population, come back and tell them the findings. Too often, people just snatch up research and run leaving behind a mistrust of research and researchers.

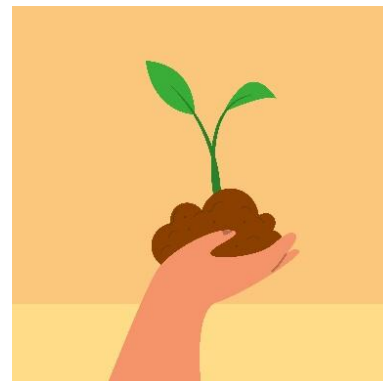
By sharing the findings, you are cultivating participation for future projects. You are cultivating a relationship with critical community gatekeepers. You are cultivating the basis for deeper findings. Yes, it takes time. But no relationship is not a sprint. Trust is not a sprint. You need a journey mindset in which you are walking alongside the community, building relationships.

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## QUALPOR *Initiatives*

### Sensitive Research Initiative

Members of the Sensitive Research Initiative (SRI) will be presenting an AAPOR webinar (TBA) on Managing and Supporting Research Interviewers. We continue to work on producing tools for developing and customizing distress protocols for qualitative and quantitative research. If you would like to become a member of the SRI or suggest tools for us to develop, please contact Mariel McKone Leonard at [m.mckone.leonard@mmckone.com](mailto:m.mckone.leonard@mmckone.com).



### Standards and Best Practices Committee

The standards committee has developed a draft of best practices for qualitative research, similar to the guidance for surveys included on AAPOR's website (<https://aapor.org/standards-and-ethics/best-practices/>). It will be presented for approval at the Fall QUALPOR meeting. Thank you to the QUALPOR members who have contributed to the development or reviewed initial drafts of the guidelines.

The committee is also looking for leaders. This is a great opportunity to give back to the research community and influence the direction of our field. Reach out to Amber at [amber@hudsonpacific.co](mailto:amber@hudsonpacific.co) to express your interest or learn more.

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## Qualitative Theory-Building and the Challenge of AI Analysis

By William Weaver, Director of Consulting, New Heights Research



Will Weaver

“Research without theory is blind, and theory without research is empty” (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992).

As qualitative practitioners, theory is central to our training and development as well as to the rigor of our professional practices. Each of us has poured over the work of Glaser & Strauss, Charmaz, Husserl, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty among others, attempting to integrate these thinkers into the task of producing intellectually honest and actionable qualitative output. Theory guides how we turn questions into operational investigations, provides the framework for how we turn data into meaningful insight, and provides a basis for credibility that transfers to both our work and to ourselves. Critically, theory offers a means for understanding our best practices, improving

*Qualitative Theory-building and the Challenge of AI Analysis continued on page 6*

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them, and passing them on to the researchers who will succeed us. One may even contend that theory is a pillar of qualitative research culture.

AI has steadily pressed into our research culture and the qualitative milieu with a mix of suspicion and anticipation. By now, most of us have experimented with it. Many of us have incorporated it into our standard practices. My own firm (focused on market research) has launched three separate ground-up AI builds (with varying success), made use of Claude, Grok, Comet, and GPT-5, and experimented with it at all phases of the qualitative analysis process. Having done so, I am forced to conclude the following:

*AI qualitative analysis works. It's even great.*

But.

AI works without a theoretical framework, without years of specialized training, and without any sensitivity to the cornerstone writings in grounded theory, narrative theory, phenomenology or anything in the research canon. A few mouse clicks and data uploads yield qualitative results that are (usually) comparable to a trained human coder's. AI's error rate seems equal to or better than a human coder's, too.

As a lover of our philosophical foundations and a believer in its fundamental role in creating rigorous and valid work, I am forced to wonder why AI is so successful. Specifically, if AI analysis yields workable results without having a theoretical lens (grounded theory, phenomenology, narrative theory, etc.) what are the implications for the advancement and contemporary significance of the theories we've all dedicated ourselves to grasping?

*Put another way, if AI can deliver reliable qualitative analyses without ever being exposed to qualitative theory, is theory itself under threat of irrelevance?*

As we stand today, there is no answer to this question. However, as technology advances in both efficacy and ubiquity I believe a response will become increasingly pressing, particularly to younger generations of researchers who may decide that the study of theory is a low-ROI endeavor.

There are a few avenues we can take today to explore this further.

On the theory-building side, it could be helpful to understand why AI succeeds from within our established qualitative perspectives. Academic investigations that center LLM functionality inside our traditional frameworks could be illuminating and potentially yield new techniques. If LLMs are an elaborate "language game," as Wittgenstein would say, what are the reliable points of contact between that game and the lived experiences / "Erlebnis" / "Dasein" of respondents? Are there gaps? Are there opportunities to enrich certain theoretical precepts or to retire others? Are there elements of these phenomena that only cultivated human intuition can touch?

*Qualitative Theory-building and the Challenge of AI Analysis continued on page 7*

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On the technology side, there is an open opportunity to train AI models on specific established qualitative perspectives (a phenomenology model, a grounded theory model, etc.) and impose a lens onto their functionality. It could be particularly useful to test the outputs of such models using the same datasets and comparing the interpretations against each other and against human-only synthesis. These differences (if any emerge) could also offer opportunities for advancing theory while securing its practical value in applied research.

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## Come Early to the Conference and Join The Qualitative Research Idea Group!

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026 — 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM — Santa Monica Room (in person only)**

### **AI and Other Advancements in Qualitative Research: Considerations for QUALPOR and AAPOR**

Over the past two years, this Idea Group has tracked the rapid evolution of qualitative research in the age of generative AI. At the 79th AAPOR Conference, we collaboratively identified over 40 ways AI can support our work and 11 key areas of concern. Last year, we focused on how our organizations began testing these tools. As we convene for the third year of this group, we recognize that AI is no longer just a "new" tool, but an increasingly integrated part of how we conduct and analyze qualitative research. This year's session aims to build on our previous work by looking at the practical realities of long-term implementation and the preservation of our core research values.

We will focus our discussion around three main questions:

1. **What is actually sticking?** As the initial surge of experimentation levels off, we will share updates on which AI applications are becoming permanent fixtures in our workflows and which have proven less effective than anticipated. We want to hear about successful use cases that have moved beyond the testing phase and the practical roadblocks researchers are facing as these tools become standard.
  2. **How do we preserve the "qualitative" in qualitative research?** As more organizations use AI and automation to scale their qualitative research, there is a risk of losing the depth that defines the method. This question explores how to identify and protect the essential elements of qualitative research that are often sidelined when the focus shifts to doing qual bigger and faster.
  3. **What are our next steps as a community?** Finally, we will discuss where we want to go from here. We will explore potential collaborative efforts for **QUALPOR** and **AAPOR**, such as identifying areas where shared best practices or informal standards might help the broader membership navigate these methodological shifts.
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## On-the-Site Research Shines a Light on Lived History: Beyond Brown v. Board of Education

By Reggie Alston, VP of Qualitative Research, Ebony Marketing Systems

As America celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, [Reggie Alston](#), Vice President Qualitative Research, Ebony Marketing Systems, Inc., reflects on a project that reshaped how we think about power, community, and history.



Reggie Alston

Over the past year, I had the honor of conducting five focus groups for the National Park Service and Lexicon & Line at each of the five communities whose legal challenges were consolidated into *Brown v. Board of Education*. While we often remember Brown as a Supreme Court decision, what became clear to me is this: Brown is not a ruling, it's a collection of ordinary people refusing to accept oppressive ideas about who deserves opportunity.

The methodology was rooted in the community. One focus group of eight to 12 participants was conducted at each of the five locations. Recruitment was

handled by members of the National Park Service and included participants who were familiar with the history, operations, and/or significance of each site. The focus group sessions in Farmville, VA; Claymont, DE; Washington, DC; and Summerton, SC were held at the Brown v. Board sites. The focus group session in Topeka, KS was conducted at a local library.

As an extension of the focus group in **Claymont, Delaware**, I had the privilege of having a separate conversation with one of the participants, Miss Joan Anderson. Miss Anderson's experiences are connected to *Gebhart v. Belton*, one of the five cases that formed *Brown v. Board of Education*. With her permission, I share her thoughts.

Miss Joan didn't describe history in legal terms. She described it in feelings:

- What it meant to attend a segregated school
- How inequality shaped expectations
- How courage often looked like quiet persistence

Her story reminded me that ordinary people don't always see themselves as "change makers" until history catches up with them.

I had a similar experience in **Summerton, South Carolina** where I had the pleasure of meeting separately with a focus group participant, Cecil Williams. Mr. Williams is a photographer who, at the age of 14, helped capture important Civil Rights Movement events including *Briggs v. Elliott* and the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre. Today, Mr. Williams continues that legacy through his work with [Actively Black](#), using culture and commerce to affirm Black identity and history.

*On-the-site Research Shines a Light on Lived History continued on page 9*

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In **Washington, D.C.**, the *Bolling v. Sharpe* case challenged segregation in the nation's capital. The associated middle school is still functioning today. Students in my focus group told me something powerful: "If people knew this school's history, they'd see us differently."

That stuck with me. History doesn't disappear when buildings change. Ordinary people continue to carry it forward whether through storytelling, education, or cultural expression.

In **Farmville, Virginia**, the Robert Russa Moton Museum is more than a historic site, it's a reminder of what young people can spark.

Formerly Moton High School, this is where Barbara Rose Johns, at just 16 years old, led a student strike protesting unequal school conditions. That action became *Davis v. County School Board*, another pillar of *Brown v. Board*.

During my focus group in Farmville, community members spoke about the museum as a living space and one that connects past courage to present possibility.

This year, Barbara Johns was honored with a statue at the U.S. Capitol replacing a Confederate monument. A powerful shift in who we choose to remember. Ordinary students. Extraordinary impact.

When people hear *Brown v. Board of Education*, they usually think of **Topeka, Kansas** and there's a reason for that. The case name comes from Topeka in part because it represented the Midwest, not the Deep South, underscoring that segregation was a national issue, not a regional one.

Today, the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historical Park is located in Topeka at the former Monroe Elementary School, a powerful, tangible space where history feels close. Visit the site: <https://www.nps.gov/brvb>. In my conversations there, community members reflected on integration, some describing smoother transitions than in the South, others naming tensions that lingered quietly for decades.

What Topeka reinforced for me is this:

Names matter, but people matter more.

*Brown* is a reminder that everyday choices, made by ordinary families, can shift a nation.

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## Qualitative Research is *Everywhere* in LA in May!

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Wednesday, May 13, 2026 — 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM — Beaudry A

QUALPOR Affinity Group Panel

### **Qualitative Research: Fostering Engagement with Hard-to-reach & Underrepresented Participants**

**Moderator: Melissa Dunn Silesky**

- **Kristen Conrad** – “What Teens Really Hear: Rethinking Survey Design through Cognitive Interviews”
  - **Kai Fuentes** – “Increase Multicultural Participation Rate and Insights by Reframing the Screening Interview”
  - **Marieke Haan** – “Tracing Family Dynamics: Integrating Qualitative and Network-Based Methods in the Study of Disinheritance”
  - **Kiley Hurst** – “Same-Sex Parents Raising Kids – a Qualitative Interview Report”
  - **Lila Rabinovich** – “Using Qualitative Methods to Understand Barriers to Internet Panel Participation Among Hard-to-Reach Populations”
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Wednesday, May 13, 2026 — 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM — Beaudry B

### **Community Engaged and Participatory Qualitative Approaches**

#### **Putting Youth on the Map: Using Mind Mapping As a Participatory Method to Uncover Youth Mental Health Perspectives**

Kelsey Barnick and Mikaela Lies, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Esperanza García and Melissa Gutierrez-Kapheim<sup>1</sup> (Sinai Chicago)

#### **An La Love Story of Data Innovation: Recovering Community Truths through Appreciative Inquiry In Boyle Heights**

Jeannine Pearce, UC Irvine and Elisa Borowski, University of California, Irvine

#### **Partners In Analysis: Methods for Meaningful Community Member Engagement In Qualitative Data Analysis**

Jackie Jacobs, Sinai Chicago; Patricia Labellarte, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Lizbeth Garcia, Sinai Chicago; Kelsey Barnick, Sinai Urban Health Institute; Yasmeeen Santana, Sinai Chicago; and Helen Margellos-Anast, Sinai Urban Health Institute

#### **How Do Today's Parents of Young Children Feel about Participating In a Birth Cohort Study?**

Erica Wong, Lisa Calderwood, and Alyce Raybould, University College London; Amy Busby, Verian; Polly Hollings, Ipsos; Joanna Bolton, Verian; and Emma Bowkett, Ipsos

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Thursday, May 14, 2026 — 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM and 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM — Hollywood Ballroom

### **Director's Cut #3 - Large Language Models and Qualitative Research**

Large Language Models are revolutionizing how researchers collect, analyze, and interpret open-ended data. The **LLM and Qualitative Research** session explores the intersection of emerging AI technology and traditional qualitative rigor, focusing on how LLMs can amplify research impact without sacrificing validity. Presentations will cover human-in-the-loop methodologies, sampling strategies for theme detection in large datasets, and comparative evaluations of LLM versus human performance in thematic coding and survey pretesting. Attendees will gain practical strategies for integrating AI into research workflows to enhance efficiency, drive innovation, and maintain the interpretive depth essential to social science.

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Friday, May 15, 2026 — 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM — Santa Barbara B/C

### **Methodological Innovations in Qualitative Research**

#### **Using Embedded Web Probes As a Cognitive Interviewing Tool**

Jamie Wescott and Kaitlin Lilienthal, RTI International

#### **Cultivating Small Children's Views on Journalism and Society in Germany. a Qualitative Look into Kindergarteners' Media World**

Thomas Roessing, TU Dortmund

#### **Conducting Qualitative Interviews with Adults Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication Supports**

Ann MacFadyen, National Center for Health Statistics

#### **Leveraging Traditional Qualitative and 'Qual at Scale' Methods: Insights from a Citywide Study In Philadelphia, 2025**

Melissa Silesky<sup>1</sup>, Darby Steiger<sup>1</sup>, Robyn Rapoport<sup>1</sup>, Rob Manley<sup>1</sup>, Nikky Enterline<sup>1</sup> and Shawn Mooring<sup>2</sup>, (1) SSRS, (2) The Lenfest Institute for Journalism

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Friday, May 15, 2026 — 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM — Beaudry B

## Qualitative Methods for Strengthening Trust, Validity and Equity in Survey Research

### **The Best of Both Worlds – Blending Quantitative and Qualitative Methods for Enhanced Research**

Nicole Mitchell, Dynata

### **Data Privacy and Other Concerns: Preliminary Testing of Consent Forms for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth**

Tywanquila Walker, Robin L. Kaplan, and Rebecca L. Morrison , Bureau of Labor Statistics; Safia Abdirizak, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### **Addressing Participant Recruitment through Qualitative Insights into Redesigned Invitation Materials In a Probability-Based Online Panel**

Lila Rabinovich, Marco Angrisani, Ying Liu and Evan W. Sandlin, University of Southern California

### **Thematic Analysis of Cognitive Interview Data: A Qualitative Framework for Evaluating Large-Scale Federal Survey Questions**

Halelujha Ketema, Census Bureau

### **Crisis In the U.S. Labor Market: Examining the Workforce Transitions of Women In 2025**

Angelina Kewalramani, Independent Consultant

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Friday, May 15, 2026 — 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM — San Pedro - Lobby Floor

### **Mixed Methods: LLMS & Qualitative Methods**

#### **Political Violence Polls Misleading and Promote Polarization**

Ryan Kennedy, William Minozzi, Laura Moses and Edward Hohe, The Ohio State University

#### **Can AI Do That? Evaluating the Accuracy of AI Coding Open-Ended Survey Responses**

Scott Clement, Washington Post and Emily Guskin, ABC News

#### **From Hours to Minutes: Cleaning Open-Ended Responses from a Cati Survey**

Samantha Collins, Thomas Brassell, Rachel Kinder and Don Allen, ICF

#### **From Human to Silicon: Assessing the Utility of Cognitive Interviewing with Large Language Models**

Patrick Sturgis, The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Caroline Roberts, University of Lausanne - UNIL and Tom Robinson, London School of Economics and Political Science

#### **Improving the Measurement of Public Opinion about AI for Global Surveys: Evidence from Cognitive Interviews**

Alvin Nugroho<sup>1</sup>, Charles Lau<sup>1</sup>, Jenna Steinberg<sup>2</sup> and Chris Miljanich<sup>1</sup>, (1)Gallup, Inc, (2)Gallup

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Friday, May 15, 2026 — 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM — Santa Anita A/B - Lobby Floor

### **When Surveys Talk Back: The Rise of the AI Interviewer in Qualitative Research**

#### **Blending Qualitative and Quantitative Insights: Using AI Survey Tools on a Probability-Based Panel**

Dan Costanzo, NORC at the University of Chicago and Hannah Kemp, Surgo Health

#### **AI Assisted Opinions – Do Different AI Personalities Encourage Better Responses to Open-Ended Questions?**

Matthew Deihl and Edward Paul Johnson, Harris Poll

#### **Scaling Qualitative Public Opinion Research: How AI Conversational Platforms Are Transforming Survey Methodology**

Leib Litman, Touro College; Terry Classen, and Matthew Shelter, Beacon Research

#### **Integrating Conversational AI into Probability-Based Surveys**

Travis Brodbeck, ReconMR/Siena and Leib Litman, Lander College

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## New Member Corner

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QUALPOR currently has 250 members and continues to grow. Becoming a member is easy, just contact Margaret Roller (rmr@rollerresearch.com) and be put on the list to receive all QUALPOR communications.

In this newsletter, the spotlight is on one of our newest QUALPOR members, Julia Yankelowitz. Julia introduces herself below.

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I am eager to join QUALPOR to expand my understanding of the many ways qualitative methods can be used to illuminate complex problems.

My work began as an ESL teacher here in the U.S., as well as through a Fulbright in Uruguay where I taught in 16 schools across 6 provinces of the country. This deepened my interest in understanding how learning manifests across contexts. From there, I worked in education research for some years at SRI International supporting projects evaluating and assisting education initiatives across the U.S. I enjoyed weaving together interviews, document review and survey results to create a coherent picture of what was going on at schools.



*Julia Yankelowitz*

To dive deeper into research design and mixed methods, I have been completing a Master's in Decision Analysis at Minerva University. Through my thesis, I am working with the Mayor's Disability Council Employment Subcommittee of San Francisco to develop a policy on digital accessibility. I focus on disability inclusion and see research as a tool for identifying systemic inequities and informing policy solutions grounded in lived experience.

Currently, I also work at the Exploratorium museum, recruiting and interviewing individuals ages 8-65+ walking them through a diverse array of exhibits and evaluation protocols. It's a joy to learn from visitors the surprising ways they interpret, or interact with, our wide array of educational experiences.

Looking forward to meeting you all at the next coffee chat or the APPOR conference in May!

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## Workshops, Publishing Opportunity, Conferences, & Training

### Workshops

- [Freerange Ethnography: Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries](#) with Susan Harper and Jessica Smartt Gullion, Virtual workshop, May 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m. ET, hosted by The Qualitative Report.
- [Autoethnographic Storytelling in Qualitative Research](#) with Carolyn Ellis and Arthur Bochner, Virtual workshop, February 17, 2027, 10:00 a.m. ET, hosted by The Qualitative Report.

### Publishing Opportunity

- [Call for Submissions: Using AI for Research](#), Sage Research Methods, deadline is October 2026

### Conferences

- [81<sup>st</sup> Annual AAPOR Conference](#), "An LA Love Story of Data, Innovation, and the Quest for Truth," Los Angeles, CA, May 13-15, 2026.
- [Thinking Qualitatively: Making a Difference \(TQ:MD\)](#), Virtual only, June 15-18, 2026, hosted by the International Institute of Qualitative Methodology.
- [23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive](#), Virtual only, July 27-31 and August 5-7, 2026, hosted by ResearchTalk.
- [2026 Annual Meeting of the Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology](#), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, July 17-18, 2026.
- [11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Qualitative Research](#), Porto, Portugal, January 19-21, 2027, Virtual February 1-4, 2027.

### Training and events from CAQDAS (computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software)

#### Providers

- [Atlas.ti](#)
- [MAXQDA](#)
- [NVivo](#)
- [Quirkos](#)

#### Reviews of CAQDAS Programs

- [CAQDAS Networking Project](#)