



# Dr. Sharan Merriam

Presented by: Brett King, University of Central Oklahoma  
Jackson College of Graduate Studies, Adult and Higher Education – Training  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lori Risley



**Background:** Dr. Sharan Merriam is Professor Emeritus in Adult Education and Qualitative Research at the University of Georgia. She received a Doctor of Education in Adult Education from Rutgers University, a Master of Education in English Education from Ohio State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Drew University.

## Major Contributions to SDL:

Advances in philosophical foundations and qualitative research methods

Significant influence on the instruction of graduate study and professional development, specifically her mentorship through the Houle Scholars Program and international support of future scholars

Co-authored book *Learning in Adulthood*

Leadership in the Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) and the Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE)

Co-editor of the *Adult Education Quarterly*, the *1990 Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education*, and the *Professional Practices in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning*

## Recommendations:

Continuance of empirically based research on SDL

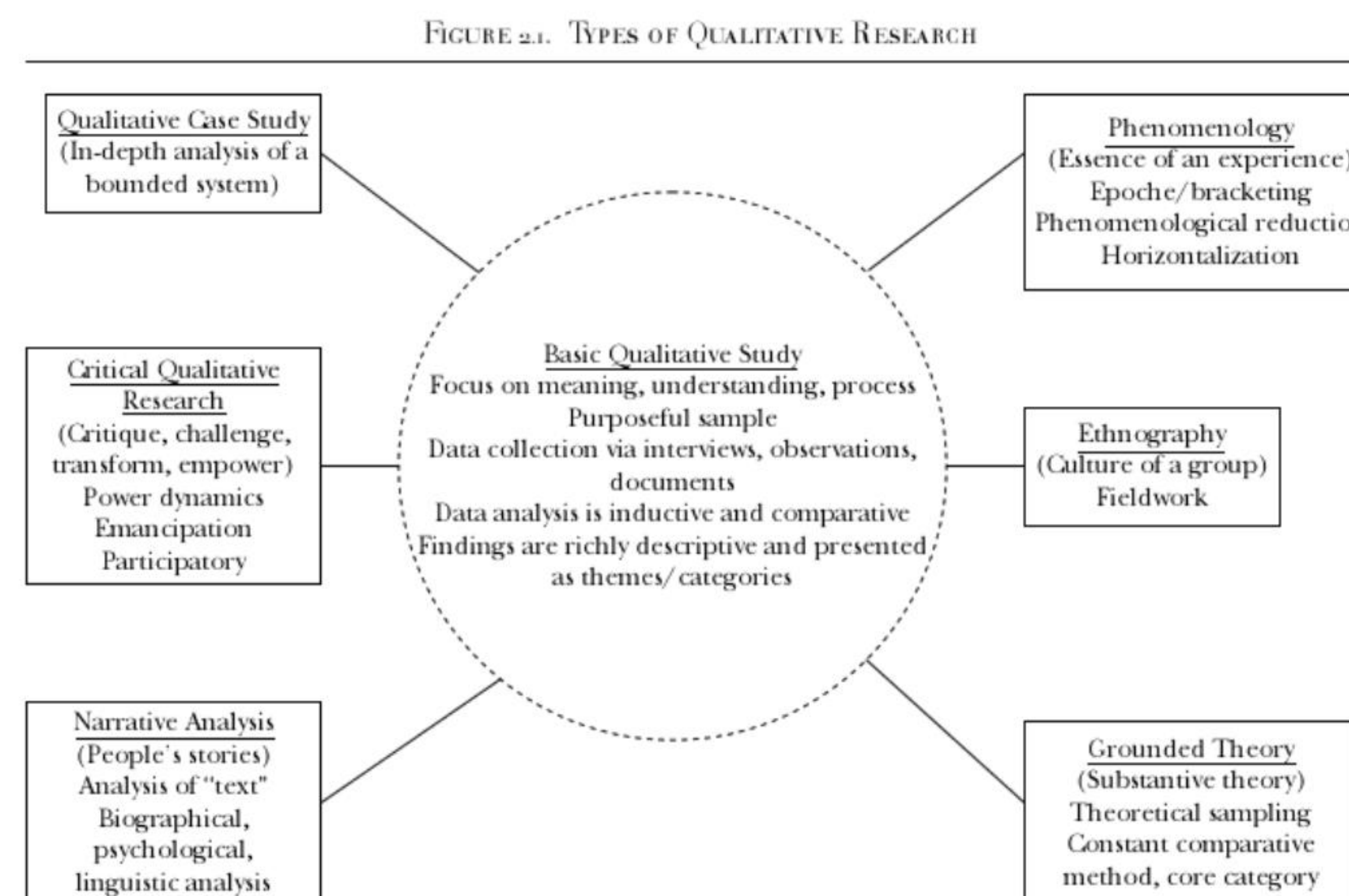
## Lifetime Achievements and Awards:

Fulbright Scholar to Malaysia

Awarded the Houle World Award for Outstanding Literature for three of her books

## ISSDL:

Dr. Sharan Merriam is a 2009 recipient of the Malcolm Knowles Memorial Self-Directed Learning Award. She is a current member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Self-Directed Learning*.



## Important SDL Publications:

Merriam, S. (1996). Updating our knowledge of adult learning. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*, 16(3), 136-143.

Merriam, S. B., & Caffarella, R. S. (1999). *Learning in adulthood: A comprehensive guide*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Merriam, S. B. (2001). Andragogy and self-directed learning: Pillars of adult learning theory. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, 89, 3-14.

Merriam, S. B., & Bierema, L. L. (2013). *Adult Learning: Linking theory and practice*. Somerset, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Merriam, S. (2014). *Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation* (3rd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass.

