

This much-needed book is an introductory text for novice researchers – undergraduate students or junior postgraduate students who are encountering research methodology for the first time. The team of eminent scholars who have contributed chapters to the book include American writers John Creswell, Nataliya Ivankova and Vicki Plano Clark; and South Africans Liesel Ebersöhn, Irma Eloff, Ronél Ferreira, Jonathan Jansen, Kobus Maree, Jan Nieuwenhuis, Jacques Pietersen and Carol van der Westhuizen. Their emphasis on equipping new or relatively inexperienced researchers for tackling the research process skillfully and with understanding has resulted in a book that is easy to read and use, yet does not dilute the conceptual and terminological complexities of the field. The book brings together the most recent and current perspectives on how to conduct research at undergraduate (and postgraduate) level together in one publication.

A number of additional features make this book a valuable resource for scholars, academics, researchers, psychologists, social workers, teachers and clients:

- It gives an overview of international perspectives on research methodology.
- It critically analyses germane questions such as, “What is the language of research” and “How does one pose the right research question?”.
- It facilitates an understanding and application of theories, goals, methods and strategies in research.
- It examines the historical and philosophical underpinnings of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research and suggests how these three approaches may be used to conduct research.
- It provides practical guidelines on how to conduct research.
- It examines the theoretical bases and practical applications of hermeneutic-narrative, postmodern and constructivist approaches to research.
- It presents ideas on how to engage participants and elicit “thick” data.
- It elaborates on the methodological dimensions of action research processes and exemplifies participatory reflection.

Kobus Maree is Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria and Editor of *Perspectives in Education*. He has three doctorates, is internationally acknowledged for his work in career counselling and was recently honoured by receiving Exceptional Achiever status from the University of Pretoria for two consecutive cycles.



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