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ACP Blog on thoughts and findings so far in my PhD journey.
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PROTOCOL:

What are Advanced Clinical Practitioners expectations of the benefits in pursuing this role, and are they being realised?

BACKGROUND

- Introduction of the multi-professional framework for Advanced Clinical Practice.¹
- Additional funding released specifically for the support of ACP.²
- Creation of the “Centre for Advancing Practice” & commencement of accreditation of ACP programmes.³
- Approval of Apprenticeship route for ACP.⁴
- NHS people plan⁵ cites ACP as a way to achieve ambitions for ‘Growing for the Future’.

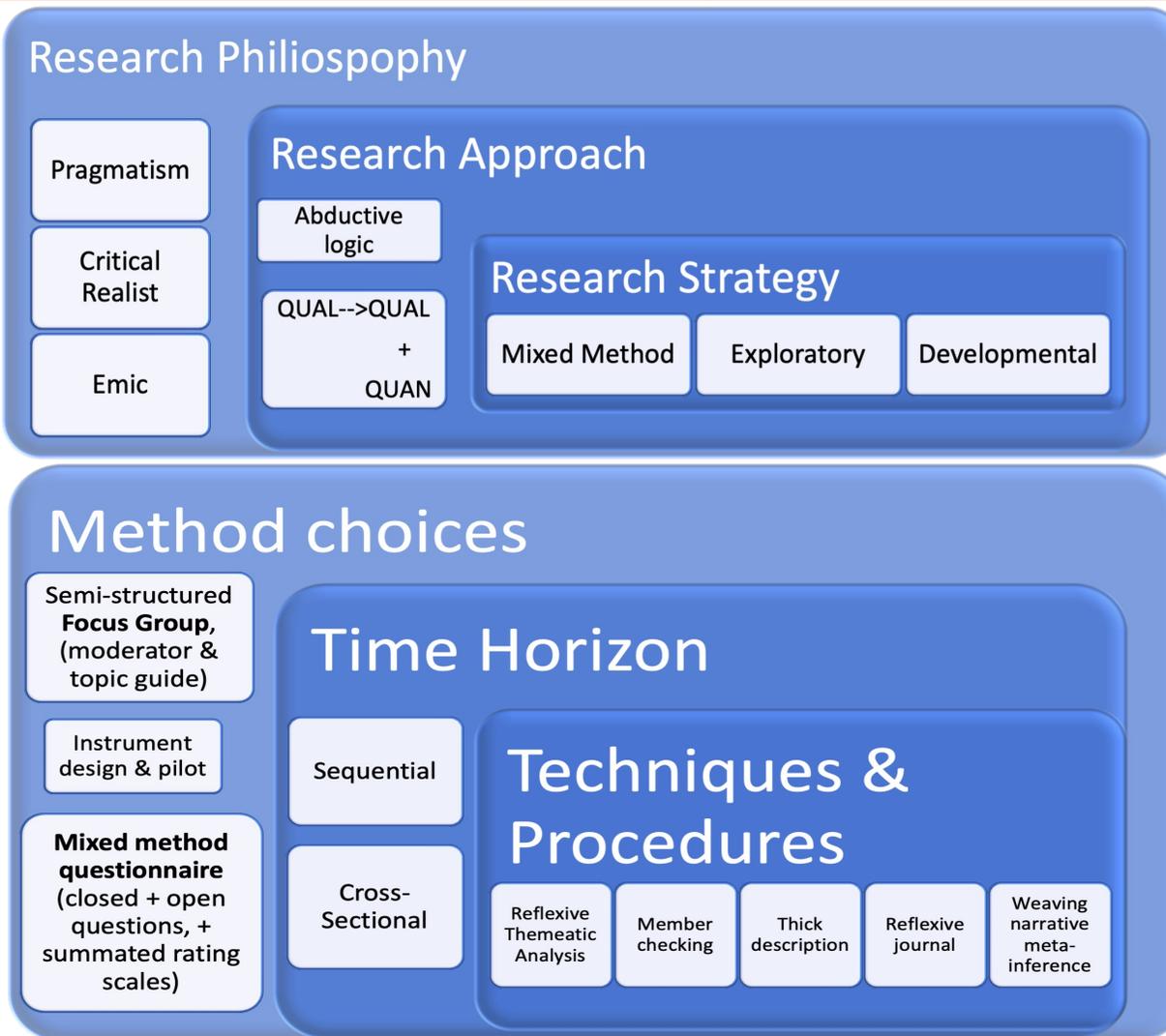
However.... “concern was expressed that a degree of certainty was needed about the future of advanced clinical practitioners if professionals were to invest their time in developing their skills and qualifications and if employers were to provide their investment and planning.”⁶

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- ❖ What are the expectations of benefits ACPs have regarding their role?”
- ❖ Do ACPs believe these are currently being achieved?
- ❖ What factors appear associated with whether or not expectations are achieved?

References:

- 1.Health Education England 2017, Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/>
- 2.Health Education England 2019. Health Education England confirms arrangements for access to £50m Workforce Development Funding for 19/20. www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events; Health Education England.
- 3.. Health Education England (2021) *Welcome to the Centre for Advancing Practice*: Health Education England. Available at: <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/>



AIM

To better inform ACPs, potential ACPs, and those that provide advice, support, training and education to these health professionals about whether their expectations for the role are being realised.

SAMPLE

Targeted advertising, use of a recruitment questionnaire in one NHS English Organisation to identify ACPs and using social media for a national questionnaire as comparison. Purposive, nested, maximum-variation sampling for the Focus Group (to ensure diversity of ACPs across professions, specialities and contexts). Followed by probability sampling of ACPs for the follow-up questionnaire.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Employed & in an ACP/ trainee ACP role/ job
- Fits the description of ACP as defined by the Multi-Professional Framework for ACP in England¹
- Consented and willing to participate.

4. Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (2018) *Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Degree)*. [https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/advanced-clinical-practitioner-\(integrated-degree\)-v1-0](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/advanced-clinical-practitioner-(integrated-degree)-v1-0)

5. NHS Improvement, (2020) *NHS People Plan*. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/our-nhs/people/>

6. Health Education England (2017a) *Developing Advanced Practice in Clinical Care: Analysis of Physical and Online Workshops*. Available at: https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Report_Developing%20advanced%20practice%20in%20clinical%20care_CleverTogether.pdf.