Table 1 Contrasting qualitative and quantitative research

Section	*Criterion*	*Qualitative*	*Quantitative*
1	Approaches to explanation	Explain individual cases; "causes-of-effects" approach	Estimate average effect of independent variables; "effects-of-causes" approach
2	Conceptions of causation	Necessary and sufficient causes; mathematical logic	Correlational causes; probability/statistical theory
3	Multivariate explanations	INUS causation; occasional individual effects	Additive causation; occasional interaction terms
4	Equifinality	Core concept; few causal paths	Absent concept; implicitly large number of causal paths
5	Scope and generalization	Adopt a narrow scope to avoid causal heterogeneity	Adopt a broad scope to maximize statistical leverage and generalization
6	Case selection practices	Oriented toward positive cases on dependent variable; no (0,0,0) cases	Random selection (ideally) on independent variables; all cases analyzed
7	Weighting observations	Theory evaluation sensitive to individual observations; one misfit can have an important impact	All observations are a priori equally important; overall pattern of fit is crucial
8	Substantively important cases	Substantively important cases must be explained	Substantively important cases not given special attention
9	Lack of fit	Nonconforming cases are examined closely and explained	Nonsystematic causal factors are treated as error
10	Concepts and measurement	Concepts center of attention; error leads to concept revision	Measurement and indicators center of attention; error is modeled and/or new indicators identified