

File 20110113.2316: Grounded theory is used in instances where experiments are difficult or impossible to perform, either because such experiments would be impractical, or unethical, or too expensive to conduct.

What I meant to convey in my report when I talked about grounded theory being controversial and a rejection of the scientific method (of Bacon?), was that it was developed for those instances where you *can't* run experiments, such as is not uncommon in software engineering. ATL was concerned that if the assessors read that paragraph, they might think I was reneging on my promise to do the analysis their way. But I am not. I think it is a very interesting method, and I am busily learning all I can about it. I wrote those sentences because Dr Martin and Dr Ashbourn, who do read the report, unlike the assessors, are experimentalists who consider the idea of Popperian falsifiability to be important. It is, however, the assessors I need to satisfy primarily (but also Dr Martin).

Think of it as an opportunity to learn another methodology.

References