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QMSH 10 in Uppsala – summing up the conference

The 6th Nordic Interdisciplinary Conference on Qualitative Methods in the Service of Health took place in Uppsala on May 2-4 2010, hosted by the Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences of Uppsala University. Altogether 108 researchers took part, coming from nine European countries, including all four mainland Nordic countries, as well as from the US and Canada.

On Sunday May 2, the delegates were welcomed in the old University main building by the University Deputy Vice Chancellor and after that listened to a presentation of the University, past and present.

On Monday May 3, key note speaker Catherine Pope from the UK set the tone for the conference in her speech *Moving qualitative research beyond boring description*. Her take-home message was clear: qualitative studies must present more than self-evident descriptive themes, and data collection should include more than interviews.

The delegates could enjoy three more excellent key note speeches. Dutch medical anthropologist Sjaak van der Geest talked about his fascinating research in Africa, giving examples of data collection that definitely went beyond traditional interviews. Day two started by Ference Marton, educational researcher from Gothenburg in Sweden, giving a very interesting however not so easy-to-follow lecture about the phenomenographic theory of learning. Finally, Barbara Paterson from Canada discussed the historical evolution of qualitative research and gave an elegant introduction to meta-syntheses.

The delegates gave altogether fifty brief oral presentations in three parallel sessions, on qualitative studies in healthcare and on theoretical issues in qualitative research. Many interesting discussions took place.

Finally, an exhibition of 18 well-designed posters on similar subjects was exposed during the conference.

We, members of the Organizing Committee, want to thank all friendly participants for making this conference such an enjoyable event for us. And we take this opportunity to apologize for the temperature in the old university building being a little lower than ideal. Cold outdoors is normal in Sweden but not indoors!

We hope to see you soon again!

On behalf of the organizing committee

Inger Holmström