

# Using Qualitative Grids: Construing Sibling Relationships

Day Workshop

Coventry, 16th March 2018

By [Harry Procter](#), PhD

Visiting Professor, University of Hertfordshire, UK

Personal Construct Psychology looks at how people uniquely make sense of their worlds, situations, themselves, other people or any issue of interest. This is achieved most simply by using Qualitative Grids (QGs). These tools allow people to tell how they see things in their own words or drawings. The grids enable us to see how views change across time or situation and to look at differences between people's views. The Perceiver Element Grid (PEG) is useful for getting a snapshot of a situation from the point of view of each participant. It examines how a family or team of people see themselves and each other, throwing light on their interactions. Event, Time and Situation Grids allow the capture of changes in construing. We will focus on sibling relationships as an example and Personal Construct Psychologist Dorothy Rowe's difficult experiences (from her book "My Dearest Enemy, My Dangerous Friend") will help participants to learn to use the grids and apply them in their own lives and in explorations of their clients' or subjects' experiences.

## References

- Burr, V., King, N. and Butt, T. (2014) 'Personal construct psychology methods for qualitative research' *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 17 (4). [http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/16685/1/Burr\\_and\\_King\\_2012.pdf](http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/16685/1/Burr_and_King_2012.pdf)
- Dunn, J. and Plomin, R. (1991) Why are siblings so different? The significance of differences in sibling experiences within the family. *Family Process*, 30(3), 271-83. <https://tinyurl.com/ydcnulqa>
- Procter, H. G. (2007) Construing within the family. Chapter in, Butler, R. and Green, D. *The Child Within: Taking the young person's perspective by applying Personal Construct Theory (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* pp 190 – 206. Chichester: Wiley. <https://tinyurl.com/lf28r7v>
- Procter, H. G. (2014) Qualitative Grids, the Relationality Corollary and the Levels of Interpersonal Construing. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 27 (4), 243–262. DOI: 10.1080/10720537.2013.820655. <https://tinyurl.com/hhnxr4b>
- Procter, H. G. and Procter, M.J. (2008) The Use of Qualitative Grids to examine the development of the construct of *Good* and *Evil* in Byron's play "Cain: a Mystery" *Journal of Constructivist Psychology* 21, 343 – 354. DOI:10.1080/10720530802255301. <https://tinyurl.com/l3clgas>
- Rowe, D. (2007) *My Dearest Enemy, My Dangerous Friend: Making and Breaking Sibling Bonds*. London: Routledge.