Citation:

Muñoz, Lucio, 2025. Non-Traditional Research Methods and Regional Planning Needs in Developing Countries: Is There an Ideal Methodology for Handling Critical Local and Regional Development Issues?, In: ***Current Progress in Arts and Social Studies Research, Vol. 9*, 6, February, Book Chapter 4, Page 55-67.**

https://doi.org/10.9734/bpi/cpassr/v9/3802

Non-traditional research methods and regional planning needs in developing countries: Is there an ideal methodology for handling critical local and regional development issues?

By

Lucio Muñoz*

* **Independent Qualitative Comparative Researcher / Consultant, Vancouver, BC, Canada Email: munoz@interchange.ubc.ca**

Abstract

First, a list of data and non-data limitations that complicates the methodological handling of critical regional problems in developing countries are highlighted. Then, this discussion is used to argue that the ideal methodology to deal with those complex development issues under such limiting conditions must have the following characteristics: a) be flexible so it can be applied under different sets of constraining factors; b) be issue specific so it can be used to target specific critical problems or combination of them; c) be cost-effective so that it can be used or replicated easily according to local conditions and needs; d) be simple so it can be adapted and disseminated by local actors; e) be holistic so it can deal consistently with the local and regional conditions at the same time; and f) be based on conjunctural causation so that the complex nature of the problem is more realistically reflected; and g) be theoretically sound so as to provide a scientific rational consistent or comparable with that of traditional research methodologies. Next, the advantages and dis-advantages of traditional and non-traditional research methodologies are highlighted and compared to the requirements of the ideal methodology listed above in order to indicate that each of them fails one or more of those ideal characteristics; and therefore, they are inconsistent with the nature of such ideal methodology. Soon after that, the type and nature of the research methodology that is consistent with the characteristics of the ideal research methodology for regional critical problems in developing countries is introduced and described. This ideal methodology, a new non-traditional methodology, to handle critical development issues is based on combining Rapid Assessment Research (RAR) and Qualitative Comparative Research (QCR) to identify and/or validate perceptions and theories and practice related to the critical issue at hand using conjunctural thinking. And finally, it is concluded that with a simple non-traditional research tool based on the characteristics of the ideal methodology shared in this paper, local and regional planners and decision makers in developing countries, could be able to support or reject scientifically existing official positions on local and regional social, economic and environmental development issues and discourse.

Key Words

Research Methods, Developing Countries, Critical Problems, Regional Planning Needs, Ideal Methodology, Rapid Assessment, Qualitative Comparative Analysis.

a) Introduction

Since the unprecedented rise of global urbanisation, expected to reach 70% by 2050, countries are facing growing pressure in relation to economic, social, environmental, and government aspects (Son et al., 2023; Nasution et al., 2024). It is well known that most development problems in developing countries, social, economic, or environmental or a combination of them, are considered critical problems with recognized local and regional consequences and relevance. However, in practice the local consequences and relevance of critical problems are not as well documented as their regional or global counterparts are because mainly, they are of little or no interest at the international level. For example, in the case of deforestation, global aspects are well represented in the literature as international development agents appear to be more interested in global actions (Brown and Pearce, 1994; FDAP 2024). Economists have long studied the determinants of deforestation. Responsible factors include economic development, institutional factors, plantations, and agricultural activities (Afawubo & Noglo, 2019).

Critical problems in general share some of the following characteristics: a) their existence is known and their main drivers are recognized. Deforestation is a clear example (Utting 1993; Grainger 1993). Hence, critical problems may be better reflected by problem specific research methodologies as they may undermine specific or general theoretical constructs; b) their statistics are usually not kept and maintained properly or are scattered in different sources (OECD 1993) or if centralized, they may still not be accessible to most users like small NGOs, Agricultural Cooperatives and so on due to cost factors (Lopez 1995) or it is not of good quality (WB 2024) (Muñoz, 2002). This relates to the need of methodological cost-effectiveness and flexibility to facilitate the wide dissemination and use of research outputs on these critical problems; c) they are changing constantly and the nature of their statistics is heterogeneous (Casley and Lury 1987), which limits the applicability of traditional sampling theory and approaches to tackle critical problems; d) they need immediate attention(Lietmann 1994a; 1994b), which underlines the needs of having45 research outputs on these critical problems as quick as possible; and e) they need ongoing monitoring programs(USDS/USAID 1978; Grainger 1993), which reflect the dynamic nature of these critical problems (Muñoz, 2002). Data limitations are usually accompanied by other limitations such as time, skill, economic, and technological limitations, which complicates the methodological handling of these complex critical problems. Data limitations in research in developing countries when addressing critical problems then is an ongoing pressing issue (Aiyub et al 2022) and better data is needed for better decision-making including in Latin America and the Caribbean (WB 2024).

The above indicates that the regional and local information needs in developing countries are better met by methodologies that can overcome those limitations better (Muñoz, 2002). In other words, the ideal methodology to deal with complex issues under such limiting conditions must have the following characteristics: a) be flexible so it can be applied under different sets of constraining factors; b) be issue specific so it can be used to target specific critical problems or

combination of them; c) be cost-effective so that it can be used or replicated easily according to local conditions and needs; d) be simple so it can be adapted and disseminated by local actors; e) be holistic so it can deal consistently with the local and regional conditions at the same time; and f) be based on conjunctural causation so that the complex nature of the problem is more realistically reflected; and g) be theoretically sound so as to provide a scientific rational consistent or comparable with that of traditional research methodologies (Muñoz, 2002).

Methodologies with these characteristics are not just desirable, but also necessary to support local/regional information needs and decision-making processes in those countries. Chambers (1984) highlights the need to design research methodologies capable of fitting available resources, relevant problems and specific needs of developing countries. However, experience has shown that for any project to be successful in developing countries, it must fulfil two conditions: it most address a critical or relevant problem to them and it must be cost effective in terms of costs and available resources in those countries (SAREC 1987).

The characteristics of the ideal methodology mentioned above are used in this paper to determine whether or not traditional and non-traditional research methodologies fit the regional and local research conditions and information needs in less developed countries (Muñoz, 2002). They are also used to highlight the methodological basis which may lead to the development of other non-traditional methodologies, perhaps more suited to deal with local critical issues in a way consistent with regional and local realities.

b) Traditional Research Methodologies

The research methodologies most commonly encouraged and used to deal with the complex issues faced by developing countries are summarized in Figure # 1 below.

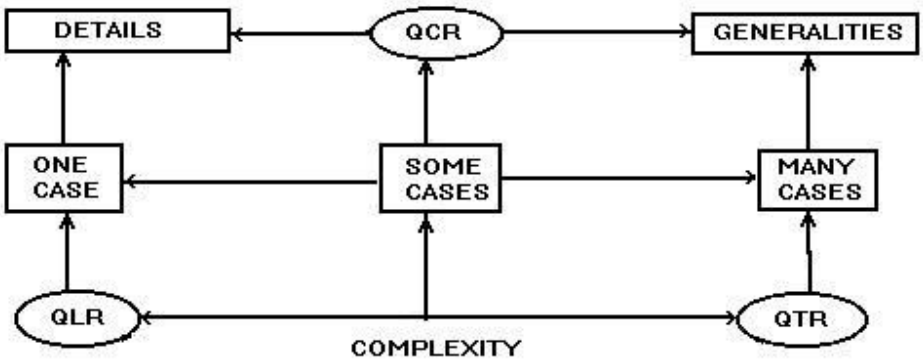

Figure # 1 TRADITIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES
As the level of complexity varies from one case, to some cases, and then to many cases, the appropriate methodology changes. At the extreme, we have Qualitative Research(QLR) and Quantitative Research(QTR). In the middle we have Qualitative Comparative Research(QCR).

Based on the number of cases under study, this figure indicates that at the lowest end (one case), we have Qualitative Research (QLR), at the middle end (some cases), we have Qualitative Comparative Research (QCR), and at the highest end (many cases), we have Quantitative Research (QTR)(Muñoz, 2002). This figure also indicates that complexity increases as the number of cases increases. Below, there is a general description of the advantages and dis-advantages of each of these different methodologies and an assessment of whether or not they are a good fit to research

conditions and needs in less developed countries.

i) Qualitative Research

As indicated in figure # 1 above, Qualitative Research (QLR) uses the complexity of one or few cases to uncover their relevant individualities. It is aimed at providing details, theoretically and empirically, about those cases. Qualitative Research Outputs are usually case specific or group specific, and they are rich in peculiarities (Muñoz, 2002). Ragin (1994) states that qualitative research has a data enhancing function, which permits us to generate important details that would be lost otherwise.

However, Qualitative Research Outputs are criticized for several reasons: a) because they do not provide information outside the individual case or group of cases under study, which may be relevant to other individual cases or group of cases or to the population of cases as a whole. Hence, there is a gap or lack of link between generalities and individualities; b) because they are not a product of methodologies as rigid as Quantitative Methodologies are in terms of the use of sampling theory and testing and replicability; c) because it takes a long time to produce them and they are resource intensive (money, skills, and technology) (Muñoz, 2002). Therefore, they are not easily affordable in less developed countries; and d) because as the number of cases and complexity increases, their quality decreases as Qualitative Methods become unworkable.

As shown in figure # 1 above, as the number of cases increases, Qualitative Methodologies are no longer appropriate. This is consistent with Ragin (1987;1994) observation that as the number of cases goes up the ability of qualitative research to handle complexity goes down or is affected, opening room for methodological weaknesses that requires other forms of validation such as when used in rapid appraisals (USAID 2010).

ii) Quantitative Research

Quantitative Research (QTR) is the methodology of choice in developed countries as it is able to break up complexity in order to produce average information about a large population of cases or groups of cases or group specific details (Muñoz, 2002). As show in figure # 1 above, as the population of cases increases to the maximum Quantitative Research (QTR) is used to produced or uncover generalities about a specific population or set of populations.

Quantitative Research Outputs are criticized for several reasons: a) because they do not provide the relevant individualities present in specific cases as they are eliminated when complexity is broken up during the generality generating process. The more cases, the more complexity is likely to be lost (Muñoz, 2002). Hence, again there is a gap or lack of link between individualities and generalities which are relevant to the wellbeing of particular elements of the same population; b) because they are the by-product of the most rigid and inflexible methods of analysis, they may not reflect the limitations that are binding in developing countries; c) because they take time and they are resource intensive (money, skills, and technology) too. Hence, they are not easily affordable in less developed countries too; d) because as the number of cases goes down, they break down and stop being appropriate.

Kummer and Sham (1994) point out that research outputs coming from well-known quantitative cross-country studies contain very little useful information for specific members within the sample of countries. Hence, what is important for the average case or element of the population may not be important for a particular case. Chambers (1984) points out that both

Qualitative and Quantitative approaches do not match the actual research issues in developing countries since they are not effective in term of costs nor consistent with research needs and available resources (flexibility, money, time, and technical skills) (Muñoz, 2002). Finally, Ragin (1987; 1994) highlights that the peculiarities of specific cases are lost when quantitative research approaches or moves toward dominant causality, which raises the need to gather information using non-quantitative means to address that weakness (USAID 2010).

As shown in figure # 1 above, as the number of cases decreases, Quantitative theoretical constructs break down and Quantitative Methodologies become inappropriate.

iii) Qualitative Comparative Research

Ragin (1987) highlights the existence of a traditional conflict between quantitative/ qualitative research, especially between professionals in the social sciences. Qualitative researchers take cases as whole units selected based on specific purposes, not as randomly selected units from large samples of cases with equal probability of selection (Muñoz, 2002). Quantitative researchers take each case as a specific variable or score, and when doing this, there is a lost of social value and peculiarities (Ragin 1991).

This methodological conflict has fuelled the search for methodologies capable of balancing the Quantitative/Qualitative discourse (See Ragin 1987; Janoski 1991; Wickham-Crowley 1991; Griffin et al 1991; and Ragin 1994) and it continues today (Harris 2023). As shown in figure # 1 above, at the point where Qualitative Methods and Quantitative Methods break down, Qualitative Comparative Methods work the best at ease (Muñoz, 2002). In many complex situations in developing countries, the number of cases available can be handled by means of qualitative comparative research.

Besides providing a way to balancing methodological discourse, Qualitative Comparative Methodologies have other advantages: a) they provide both the generalities of the population and the relevant individualities of particular members of the population; b) they are capable of handling a reasonable among of complexity and conjunctural causality in a holistic manner, and they are more flexible than Qualitative Methods are; c) They also eliminate the sense of precision attached to primary or secondary quantitative data produced and used in the analysis; d) their results can be communicated easier to skilled and unskilled researchers and decision makers; d) they enhance the comparability and consistency of otherwise heterogeneous data at a particular point of time or across time (Muñoz, 2002). Rudel and Roper (1996) indicates that two advantages of Qualitative Comparative Methods are that they filter the sense or illusion of precision attached to data collected and that they allow for conjunctural outcomes. Conjunctural causation means that causal factors work in groups in complex situations. Alone, they may not be responsible for the outcome. But the same outcome can be the result of different groupings of these causal factors (Becker 1992). Qualitative comparative methodology and analysis has come a long way now as an emerging research tool (Mello 2023).

The disadvantages of Qualitative Comparative Research Outputs are that a) they are not very well-known, especially in less developed countries; and b) they take time and they too are resource intensive (money, time, and technology).

Sometimes, instead of Qualitative Comparative Methods the combination of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods are used in order to uncover the generalities and details in a systematic manner (See Vosti et al 1998), focusing on the positive aspects of both of them supporting each other (Harris 2023), opening the door for other research methodology forms or mixed methods in

different areas of research and assessment(Mugenda and Mugenda 2003; Kothari and Garg 2014; Kivunja and Kuyini 2017; Creswell and Creswell 2018; Allemang et al 2021; Kowalski et al 2024). However, besides that the limitations of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods are still present, the Quantitative and Qualitative outputs may not be strictly comparable or consistent. For example, generalities and details may be combined and complement each other, but direct links between them can not be traced due to, for example, methodological differences (Muñoz, 2002).

c) Non-Traditional Research Methodologies

Dissatisfaction with traditional approaches in the 1970s let to the search for more cost-effective and realistic methodologies to deal with critical issues such as agricultural issues (Schonhuth and Kievelitz 1994), which are generally known as Rapid Assessment Methodologies. These methodologies today are divided in two groups, Non-participatory or Participatory Methods. Participatory Methods are an extension of non-participatory approaches since in general terms the only difference between them is that local populations have a greater say on the different aspects relevant to the research process (Mukherjee 1993; Schonhuth and Kievelitz 1994). Rapid assessment research is now recognized as a practical and useful research tool (Theis and Grady 1991; Gibson et al 2023).

Figure # 2 below indicates that Rapid Assessment Research (RAR) can be considered as a mean of making traditional research methodologies more effective in cost terms and more consistent with local needs and realities, as Chambers (1980; 1984) suggested and it is now accepted (USAID 2010).

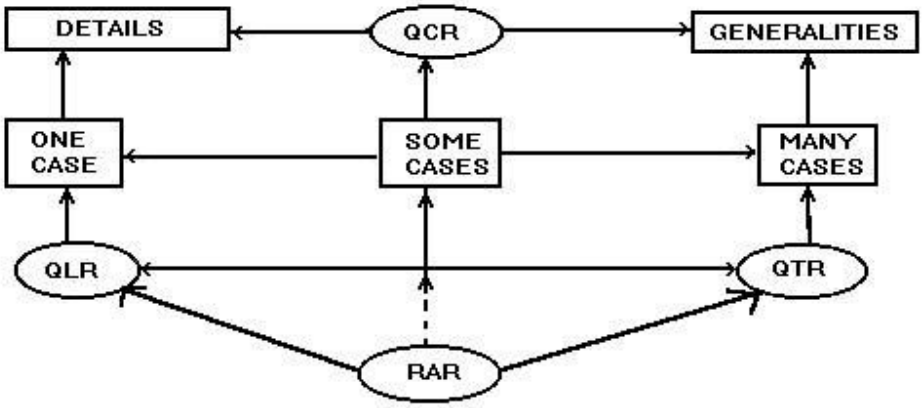

Figure # 2. NON-TRADITIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES
Rapid Assessment Research(RAR) has been combined with Qualitative Research(QLR) or Quantitative Research(QTR) or with both to produce non-traditional research methodologies. The combination of Qualitative Comparative Research(QCR) and Rapid Assessment Research(RAR) appears to be the ideal approach to explore, and apparently untouched.

This figure helps us to understand the following aspects: a)non-traditional methodologies in which Rapid Assessment Research(RAR) and Qualitative Research(QLR) are combined, as indicated by continuous arrow from RAR to QLR, eliminate most of the limitations of Qualitative Methodologies, but still produced details not consistent with or separated from relevant generalities belonging to the cases under study; b) non-traditional methodologies in which Rapid Assessment Research(RAR) and Quantitative Research(QTR) are mixed as indicated by continuous arrow from RAR to QTR, also eliminate most of the limitations of Quantitative

approaches, but still produced generalities not consistent with or uncoupled from relevant peculiarities; c) non-traditional methodologies that combine Rapid Assessment Research(RAR), Qualitative Research(QLR), and Quantitative Research(QTR) at the same time as indicated by continuous arrow from RAR to QLR and QCR also make these methodologies more cost-effective and closer to local conditions, but they produced complementary and systematic outputs, and not holistic ones. Still there may not be a direct link between generality and individuality or between regional and local conditions; and d) non-traditional methodologies that combine Rapid Assessment Research (RAR) and Qualitative Comparative Research (QCR) are ideal methodologies to deal with research conditions in developing countries, but they are not well explored yet as indicated by the broken arrow from RAR to QCR (Muñoz, 2002). To my knowledge, there is no research in progress combining RAR and QCR in and outside developing countries. Most non-traditional research appears to be directed at mixing Qualitative and/or Quantitative Research with Rapid Assessment techniques (see Schonhuth and Kievelitz 1994, Pp. 51-71; USAID 2010).

d) The Ideal Non-Traditional Methodology

Figure # 3 below indicates that the ideal research methodology to deal with critical development problems in developing countries must have the characteristics of Rapid Assessment Research (RAR) and the characteristics of Qualitative Comparative Research (QCR).

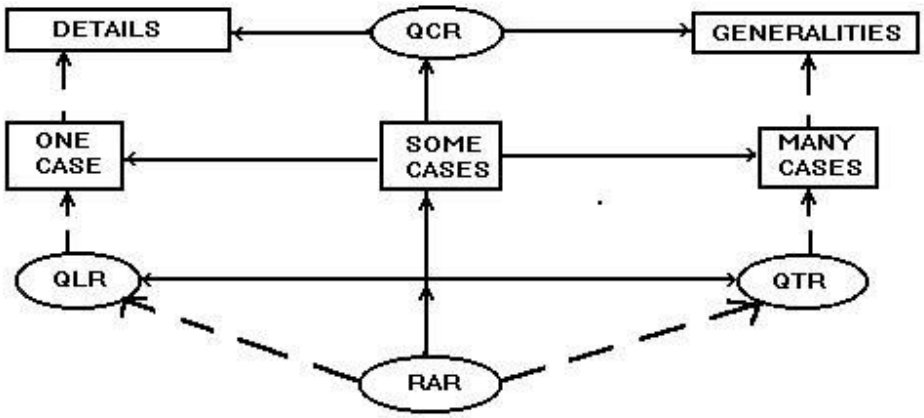

Figure # 3 IDEAL NON-TRADITIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
The combination of Rapid Assessmet Research(RAR) and Qualitative Comparative Research(QCR) is the methodology consistent with the limitations and local needs in less developed countries assigned to the ideal non-traditional research methodology. The other non-traditional methodologies still have some limitations.

This new methodology at the center of Figure 3 above has the following general characteristics: a) it balances the discourse between Qualitative and Quantitative research; b) it provides both generalities about the population of cases and relevant individualities of specific cases; c) it keeps the advantages of Rapid Assessment Research (cost-effectiveness, flexibility and simplicity; d) it keeps the advantages of Qualitative Comparative Research (holistic nature, conjunctural causality, and complexity handling); and e) it is theoretically sound and empirically feasible, both in terms of development, implementation and conjunctural validation of theories, practice and perceptions relevant to critical regional and local problems being addressed (Muñoz, 2002). The complete nature of the RAR-QCR methodology as the ideal methodology is highlighted clearly by the blue arrows in Figure 4 below:

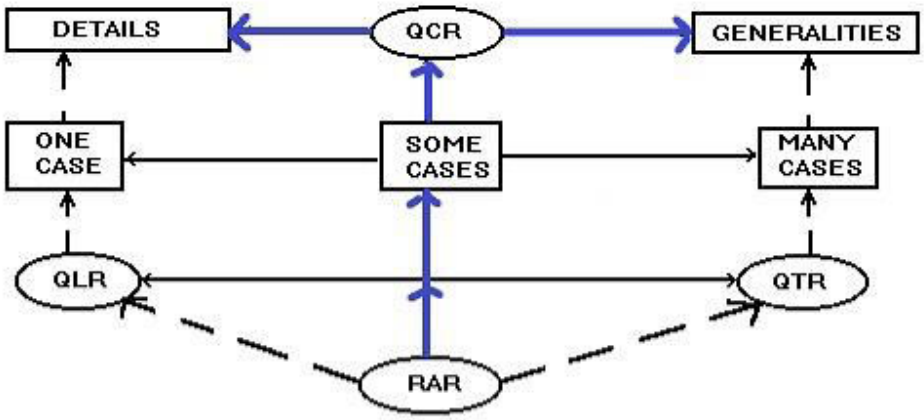

Figure # 4 THE STRUCTURE OF THE RAR-QCR BASED IDEAL METHODOLOGY

The blue arrows shows the structure of the RAR-QCR based non-traditional methodology that meets the ideal requirement for addressing critical local and regional problems in developing countries

Figure 4 above indicates how the theory, practice, and perceptions relevant to the cases under study are handled using the RAR-QCR methodology to uncover the peculiarities and generalities of those cases at the same time so that regional planning can be consistent with local development realities; and local planning can be consistent with regional development realities, handled in a way that local critical problems are validated conjuncturally by local theories, practice, perceptions; and where regional problems are validated conjuncturally by regional theories, practice, and perceptions. Creating in the process a way to validate or reject existing local and regional development theories, practice and perceptions or create new ones locally and regionally that are methodologically sound. Hence, this line of research appears to be the logical course in the never-ending process of looking for methodological cost-efficiency and output usability. Its main challenge will be or is the traditional limitations that new ideas usually face in terms of acceptance and use, both locally and globally, but change, as everybody knows, is usually inevitable as acceptance and use of other non-traditional methodologies has now increased through the years (USAID 2010).

e) Conclusions

The research limitations and information needs in less developing countries are well-known as indicated by the characteristics of their critical problems (social, economic or environmental). Those limitations and information needs have a tremendous burden on the validity of using traditional research methodologies in developing countries to deal with the practical and theoretical implications underlying their critical problems (Muñoz, 2002). The introduction of Rapid Assessment Research has made Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodologies more cost-effective and flexible, but they are still unfit to deal with the local and regional complexity and with the conjunctural and holistic nature associated with those critical problems.

The combination of Rapid Assessment Research (RAR) and Qualitative Comparative Research (QCR), another non-traditional methodology, appears to be the ideal methodology to deal with local and regional critical development problems in less developed countries in a cost-effective, flexible, and holistic manner, one capable of producing local outputs that are consistent with regional conditions and of producing regional outputs that are consistent with local realities. Therefore, this new methodology could be a good aid to help less develop countries to support

and/or reject existing regional and local development experiences, theories, and perceptions in a recognized scientific manner using conjunctural thinking or to create new ones that are methodologically sound.

References

Afawubo, K., & Noglo, Y. A., 2019. **Remittances and deforestation in developing countries: Is institutional quality paramount?.** ***Research in Economics***, *73*(4), 304-320.

Aiyub, ., Novitayani, S. and Marthoenis, 2022. ***Challenges of Data Collection for Research in a Developing Country.*** DOI: 10.5220/0008396000002442 In Proceedings of the Aceh International Nursing Conference (AINC 2018), pages 164-169 ISBN: 978-989-758-413-8.

Allemang, B., Sitter, K., and Dimitropoulos, G., 2022. ***Pragmatism as a paradigm for patient-oriented research. Health Expectations***; Wiley, Vol. 25, Issue 1, February, Pp.38-47, . doi:10.1111/hex.13384

Becker, Howard S., 1992. **Cases, Causes, Conjunctures, Stories and Imaginary.** ***In: What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry,*** Cambridge University Press.

Brown, katrina and David W. Pearce, 1994. ***The Causes of Tropical Deforestation: The Economic and Statistical Analysis of Factors Giving Rise to the Loss of the Tropical Forest,*** UBC Press, Vancouver.

Casley, D.J., and D.A. Lury, 1987. ***Data Collection in Developing Countries,*** Clarendon Press, Oxford, Second Edition.

Chambers, Robert, 1980. ***Rapid Rural Appraisal: Rationale and Repertoire,*** IDS/Sussex, DP # 155.

Chambers, Robert, 1984. ***Rural Development: Putting the Last First,*** Longman.

Creswell, J. W., and Creswell, J. D., 2018. **Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches**, 5th ed., Sage Publishers.

Forest Declaration Assessment Partners (FDAP), 2024. ***Forests under fire: Tracking progress on 2030 forest goals.*** Climate Focus (coordinator and editor). Accessible at www.forestdeclaration.org.

Gibson, C., J. Smith, K. Smits, J. Lucena and O. J. R. Baena, 2023. **Rapid Assessment Procedure as a Tool for Front-End Stakeholder Needs Analysis in Engineering Projects, In *IEEE Open Journal of Systems Engineering*,** vol. 1, Pp. 68-80.

Grainger, Alan, 1993. ***Controlling Tropical Deforestation,*** Earthcan, London.

Griffin, Larry J., Christopher Botsko, Ana-Maria Wahl, and Larry W. Issac, 1991. **Theoretical Generality, Case Particularity: Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Trade Unions Growth and Decline,** ***In: Issues and Alternatives in Comparative Social Research,*** E.J. Grill.

Harris, Brynn, 2023**.** ***Qualitative vs Quantitative Research better together***, November 02, The Sound, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Janoski, Thomas, 1991. **Synthetic Strategies in Comparative Sociological Research: Methods**

and Problems of Internal and external Analysis, ***In: Issues and Alternatives in Comparative Social Research,*** E.J. Grill.

Kivunja, C. and Kuyini, A.B., 2017. **Understanding and Applying Research Paradigms in Educational Contexts. International Journal of Higher Education,** Vol. 6, Issue 5, Pp. 26-41, ***International Journal of Higher Education***.

Kothari, C. R., and Garg, G., 2014. **Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques**, 3rd ed, ***New Age International Publishers***.

Kowalski, C.P., Nevedal, A.L., Finley, E.P. *et al.* 2024. **Planning for and Assessing Rigor in Rapid Qualitative Analysis (PARRQA): a consensus-based framework for designing, conducting, and reporting.** ***Implementation Sci*****,**19, 71, Pp. 1-14.

Kummer, David and Chi Ho Sham, 1994. **The Causes of Tropical Deforestation: A Quantitative Analysis and Case Study from the Philippines, In:** ***The Causes of Tropical Deforestation: The Economics and Statistical Analysis of Factors Giving Rise to the Loss of Tropical Forests,*** UBC Press, Vancouver.

Lietmann, Josef, 1994a. ***Rapid Urban Environmental Assessment: Lessons from Cities in the Developing world. Volume 1. Methodologies and Preliminary findings,*** Urban Management Program.

Lietmann, Josef, 1994b. ***Rapid Urban Environmental Assessment: Lessons from Cities in the Developing world. Volume 2. Tools and Outputs,*** Urban Management Program.

Lopez Ornat, Arturo, 1995. ***Estrategias para el Desarrollo Sostenido: America Latina,*** Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN).

Mello, P. A., 2023. **Qualitative comparative analysis**. In P. A. Mello, & F. Ostermann (Eds.), ***Handbook of Foreign Policy Analysis Methods,*** Pp. 385-402, Routledge.

Mugenda, O. M. and Mugenda, A.G., 2003. ***Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches,*** Nairobi: ACTS Press Company Limited.

Mukherjee, Neela, 1993. ***Participatory Rural Appraisal: Methodology and Applications,*** Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.

Muñoz, Lucio, 2002. **Non-traditional research methods and regional planning needs in developing countries: is there an ideal methodology?.** ***Theomai***, (6).

Nasution, M., Lubis, S. N., & Kesuma, S. I., 2024. **Analysis of Socio-economic Variables Impacting Poverty Alleviation in Regional Development: A Case Study in Deli Serdang Regency, Indonesia.** ***South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics***, *21*(10), 105–113.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 1993. ***Economic Instruments for Environmental Management in Developing Countries,*** OECD Documents, Paris.

Ragin, Charles C., 1987. ***The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond the Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies,*** University of California Press.

Ragin, Charles C., 1991**.** ***Issues and Alternatives in Comparative Social Research,*** E.J. Grill.

Ragin, Charles C., 1994. ***Constructing Social Research: The Unity and Diversity of Method,*** Pine Forge Press.

Rudel, Tom and Jill Roper, 1996. **Regional Patterns and Historical Trends in Tropical Deforestation, 1976-1990: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis**, ***In: AMBIO***. Vol. 25. No. 3, May 1996.

Schonhuth, Michael and Uwe Kievelitz, 1994. ***Participatory Learning Approaches: Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal,*** Rob Dorf, Germany.

Son, T. H., Weedon, Z., Yigitcanlar, T., Sanchez, T., Corchado, J. M., & Mehmood, R., 2023. **Algorithmic urban planning for smart and sustainable development: Systematic review of the literature.** ***Sustainable Cities and Society***, *94*, 104562.

Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), 1987. ***SAREC's First Decade: Swedish Support for Research in Developing Countries,*** A Progress Report with some Guidelines for the Future.

Theis, Joachim and Heather Grady, 1991. ***Participatory Rapid Appraisal for Community Development: A training manual based on experiences in the Middle East and North Africa***, IISD.

Wickham-Crowley, Timothy P., 1991. ***A Qualitative Comparative Approach to Latin American Revolutions, In: Issues and Alternatives in Comparative Social Research,*** E.J. Grill.

World Bank (WB), 2024. ***Data for Better Governance: Building Government Analytics Ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean***, November 25, Report.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2010. ***Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Tips Using Rapid Appraisal Methods,*** No. 5, 2nd Edition.

United States Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USDS/USAID), 1978. ***Proceedings of the U.S. Strategy Conference on Tropical Deforestation,*** Washington, D. C.

Utting, Peter, 1993. ***Trees, People and Power: Social Dimensions of Deforestation and Forest Protection in Central America,*** Earthscan Publications Ltd, London.

Vosti, Stephen A., Julie Witcover, and Chantal Line Carpentier, 1998. ***Arresting Deforestation and Resource Degradation in the Forest Margins of the Humid Tropics: Policy, Technology, and Institutional Options for Western Brazil,*** International Food Policy Research Institute, Final Report, March.

Citation:

Muñoz, Lucio, 2025. Non-Traditional Research Methods and Regional Planning Needs in Developing Countries: Is There an Ideal Methodology for Handling Critical Local and Regional Development Issues?, In: ***Current Progress in Arts and Social Studies Research,***

***Vol. 9*, 6, February, Book Chapter 4, Page 55-67.**