Data in Your Paper

Chapter 8 from the book:
Lotte Rienecker and Peter Stray Jørgensen
with contributions by Signe Skov

The Good Paper - A Handbook for Writing Papers in Higher Education

Samfundslitteratur

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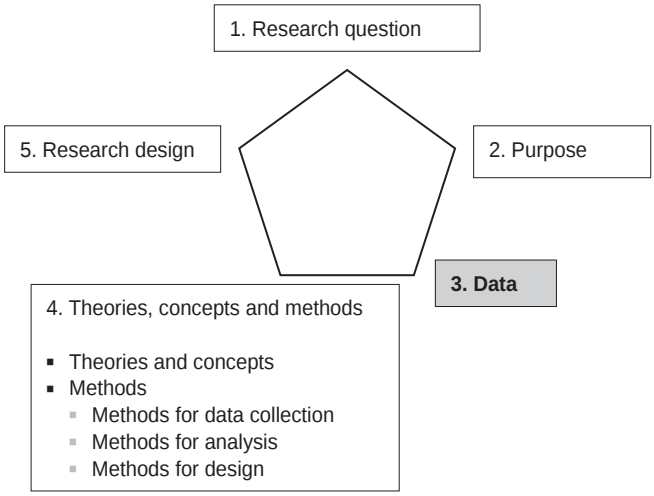
8. Data in the paper



In this book, the term *data* covers all material that is made the object of research and can be referred to. This includes among other things:

- Texts (e.g. in the Humanities)
- Observations (e.g. in the Natural Sciences)
- Data (e.g. in the Natural and Social Sciences)
- Sources (e.g. in History)
- Cases (e.g. in the Social Sciences)
- Theories (e.g. in Philosophy).

If possible, including data in your paper will always prove advantageous. It is best if data constitutes the object of analysis. However, for want of data, even small examples and illustrations of the phenomenon serving as the paper's starting point can concretise the phenomena you are writing about. The concrete (data) ensures that theories are not detached from their context, but that theory and data/practice are integrated. And you will use and (train) a number of different disciplinary methods and competences by writing papers that analyse data.