

Interactive comment on “The use of semi-structured interviews for the characterisation of farmer irrigation practices” by J. O’Keeffe et al.

K. Holstead

kirsty.holstead@hutton.ac.uk

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Thank you for this interesting discussion so far. I second the concerns of Kerry.

Your paper presents some interesting findings however I still have a number of major issues with the methodology, in particular how you used Grounded Theory for your analysis.

The basis of Grounded Theory which you correctly pointed out is that it allows a researcher to let issues emerge from the data to develop a theory. However, since it appears you set out in the beginning to gather very specific data on the characterisation of farmer irrigation practices looking at volume of water applied amongst other variables, then this strongly suggests that you have not allowed for any emergence of

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new concepts and should not be labelled as such as this is misleading. I am particularly concerned as you noted that coding is “straight forward”; overall I feel that your analysis fails to deliver the reflexivity and rationality inherent to this approach.

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