

Description

Book Review: Introduction to Research for Midwives by Rowena Doughty and Diane Menage

Review by: Kerry Pollard – Senior Lecturer in Midwifery, UCLan

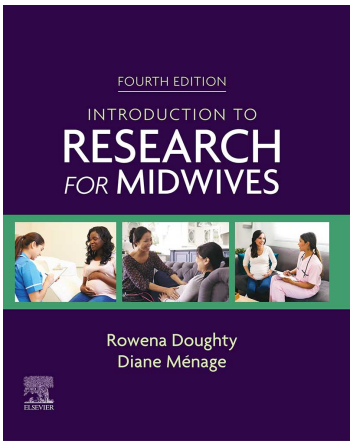
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I was excited to review this book as I have been an advocate for the previous version by Colin Rees. I am pleased to say this new version did not disappoint. Republished by its new authors Doughty and Menage, we see an updated view of the subject matter, which the authors align throughout with the new standards for midwives.

As a midwife, selecting, critiquing and applying research in practice is an essential skill. This book provides insights and information on how to do this effectively, whilst presenting challenges and critiques along the way.

The book is structured logically, each chapter provides an outline of its contents. This is especially useful for students who require specific information directly – they can easily navigate to the correct section. The book is written in a way

that is easy to follow and understand; it provides activities and reflection prompts which help the reader apply meaning to what has been written, by allowing time to think about how to apply the information. Each chapter concludes with key points helping summarise the information, followed by an extensive reference list. There are subtitles throughout the chapters which again allow for easy navigation. This format allows the reader to dip in and out, rather than having to read the text in one go.

The authors cover an extensive amount of information about research, yet this is not overwhelming to the reader. Examples are provided throughout which helps the reader comprehend and apply meaning to the text efficiently.

As well as outlining the different approaches to research, the book provides excellent information for student midwives on writing an undergraduate dissertation. The book concludes by acknowledging challenges for the future, presenting multi-factorial impacts on midwifery. It highlights the realisation that in such a digital age all information is not equal, and the importance of skilled midwives having the ability to analyse such research and discuss sensitively with women, respectful of their individual needs.

As a midwifery lecturer, I would absolutely recommend the text to student midwives and midwives. It should be an essential text on all midwifery course reading lists. **TPM**

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