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Annotated bibliography

In this brief annotated bibliography we provide references to a range of books and edited collections that provide good discussions of qualitative interviewing, followed by methods-related journals that can be consulted for articles about interviewing.

Books and edited collections

Most general social research textbooks cover qualitative interview methods, but there are a number of introductory texts, books, handbooks and edited collections that focus specifically on qualitative interviews. The fact that several of these have been updated and republished in new editions attests to their popularity and enduring relevance.

Fielding, N. G. (ed.) (2009) *Interviewing II* (four volume set), Thousand Oaks, CA: London and New Delhi: Sage.

This is an authoritative reader that gathers together a comprehensive set of classic articles and chapters by key figures in the field of social research, with an emphasis on qualitative interviews. Volumes and sections range across epistemology, forms and designs, and practicalities and process.

Fontana, A. and Prokos, A. H. (2007) *The Interview: From Formal to Postmodern*, Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

In this introductory text, Fontana and Prokos overview a range of approaches to interviewing from formal, through focused to unstructured, in the course of which they outline developments in perspectives over time towards an interview society. They conclude with a look at new trends and future developments.

Gubrium, J. F. and Holstein, J. A. (eds) (2002) *The SAGE Handbook of Interview Research: Context and Method*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage.

This handbook is a comprehensive collection with contributions from major figures in the field. It covers the standard forms of qualitative interviews, but is distinctive in having sections that focus on, respectively, particular social groups of interviewees (e.g. women, older people, elites) and settings or conditions for interviews (e.g. therapy, education, internet).

Gubrium, J. F. and Holstein, J. A. (eds) (2003) *Postmodern Interviewing*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage.

This is an influential collection of pieces concerned with postmodern interview practice. Contributions to the collection explore the way that the exchange between interviewer and interviewee/s – when, how and why questions are asked and stories constructed – is of significance. The collection as a whole conveys the variety of experimental possibilities of postmodern approaches for understanding and undertaking qualitative interviewing.

Hollway, W. and Jefferson, T. (2012) *Doing Qualitative Research Differently: Free Association Narrative and the Interview Method*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage, 2nd edn.

This book delineates a particular model of psychosocial interviewing developed by Hollway and Jefferson – the free association narrative interview, FANI, comprising two stages: (i) free association where the interviewee tells their own story in their own way, and (ii) structured narrative questions driven by the researcher.

King, N. and Horrocks, C. (2010) *Interviews in Qualitative Research*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage.

This introductory book discusses philosophies and explanation of concepts, alongside step-by-step practical advice about how to undertake various types of qualitative interviews in different settings and conditions. Phenomenological and narrative approaches receive particular attention.

Kvale, S. and Brinkmann, S. (2009) *InterViews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage, 2nd edn.

As part of a general introduction to interviewing, the second edition of this influential book identifies seven aspects of enabling knowing

through the psychoanalytic research interview practice, including intensive individual case studies, open and non-directive modes of interviewing, interpretation of meaning to allow for ambiguity and contradiction, temporal intertwining of past, present and future, and emotional human interaction.

Merton, R. K., Fiske, M. and Kendall, P. L. (1990[1956]) *The Focused Interview: A Manual of Problems and Procedures*, New York: Free Press/Macmillan.

Chapter 7 of this revised and updated version of Merton's classic 1956 text on qualitative interviewing guides the reader through the technique of group interviews specifically. In particular, Merton argues that a good focus group interview aims to cover range, specificity, depth and context for a topic through group interaction. The discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the method remains telling.

Roulston, K. (2010) *Reflective Interviewing: A Guide to Theory and Practice*, London: Sage.

This introductory book has a strong emphasis on the connection between theory and interview methods. It also has a specific focus on reflexivity and subjectivity in the research process, with Roulston addressing various ways of practising reflexivity.

Rubin, H. J. and Rubin, I. S. (2011) *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage, 3rd edn.

An introductory text on interviewing stresses the importance of listening. Rubin and Rubin cover the stages prior to and following on the interview itself, using empirical examples to illustrate and demonstrate points.

Salmons, J. (ed.) (2011) *Cases in Online Interview Research*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage.

This book is a teaching resource that is useful to dip into for ideas about the gamut of computer-mediated means of conducting online interviews: how they can be mixed with other methods of research, how to use them and their strengths and limitations.

Seidman, I. (2006) *Interviewing as Qualitative Research: A Guide for Researchers in Education and the Social Sciences*, New York: Teachers College Press, 3rd edn.

This is a general text aimed largely at novice researchers that covers a range of interviewing approaches but with a particular focus on

phenomenology. Seidman gives attention to the obligations of researchers in their relationship with research participants, and stresses a collaborative partnership between researcher and research participant.

Spradley, J. P. (1979) *The Ethnographic Interview*, New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

This is a classic methods text that stresses the search for meaning that people make of their lives through investigating tacit cultural knowledge and processes. Spradley presents a systematic, step-by-step, approach to ethnographic interviewing from locating an informant through to writing up. His categorization of types of questions and probes has been very influential.

Wengraf, T. (2001) *Qualitative Research Interviewing: Biographic Narratives and Semi-Structured Methods*, Thousand Oaks, CA, London and New Delhi: Sage.

This book puts forward a particular model of psychosocial interviewing with the aim of accessing participants' accounts of events and emotions – the biographical-narrative-interpretive methods: BNIM. Wengraf provides a practical guide for the interviewer in how to listen and facilitate through intra-narrative prompts, but not direct the interviewee's narrative.

Journals

There are several peer-refereed journals addressing various methodological approaches and techniques, including journals specializing in qualitative methods.

Forum: Qualitative Social Research / Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung

This open-access journal publishes a diverse mix of articles on aspects of qualitative methods, including many addressing aspects of interviewing, which is available at www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs.

International Journal of Qualitative Methods

Assorted aspects of interviewing with a strong emphasis on reflexive subjectivity are a feature of this open-access journal, which is available at <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/IJQM/index>.

Qualitative Inquiry

This subscription journal publishes articles concerned with emancipatory and experimental postmodern approach to qualitative research, including interviews. It is available at <http://qix.sagepub.com/>.

The International Journal of Social Research Methodology

Qualitative interviews in various forms are a recurrent topic of articles in standard issues of this subscription journal as well as special issues, which are available at www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tsrm.

Qualitative Research

This subscription journal often contains pieces on interviewing from an interpretive perspective in particular, and is available at <http://qrj.sagepub.com/>.

Online resources

www.ncrm.ac.uk

The National Centre for Research Methods is a hub and network of research groups conducting research and providing training in different areas of social science research. Their training programmes and sets of resources can prove useful in pursuing qualitative interviewing and other research methods.

www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre/realities/toolkits

A helpful series of practical guides on a range of research methods, including several different types of interviews. These were initially developed by researchers on the NCRM Realities node, but have now moved to the current site at the Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life at Manchester University, where papers on new topics continue to be produced.

<http://sru.soc.surrey.ac.uk>

Social Research Update is an ongoing series of research guides published quarterly by the Department of Sociology, University of Surrey. The series includes reviews of many useful areas of social research methodology, including several types of interviews, and is provided free on application.

www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/support/interviews

This is an ESDS Qualidata (now subsumed into the UK Data Service) teaching resource, *Exploring Diverse Interview Types*, using archive data sources to give examples of the interviews discussed. These include: qualitative structured, semi- and unstructured interviews; feminist, life history, oral history and psychosocial interviews.

www.wellesleyinstitute.com/publication/peer-research-in-action

A series of three working papers on peer research in action produced at the Wellesley Institute. A helpful brief pamphlet about the peer research method, giving advantages and disadvantages is at www.shu.ac.uk/_assets/pdf/hccj-ResearchMethodology.pdf.

www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk

Timescapes was the first major qualitative longitudinal study funded in the United Kingdom and explored how personal and family relationships develop and change over time. Seven empirical projects covered the life course, and all used variants of qualitative interviews as well as other often innovative methods. A Secondary Analysis project demonstrated the use of the *Timescapes* data and the project *Making the Long View* demonstrated the process of archiving data. The data generated in this study is archived in The Timescapes Archive making it available for use in teaching and research (www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/archive/). A list of publications emanating from this initiative is at www.timescapes.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/Timescapes-publication-list.pdf.

Examples of studies using qualitative interviews cited in this book

Henderson, S., Holland, J., McGrellis, S., Sharpe, S. and Thomson, R. (2007) *Inventing Adulthoods: A Biographical Approach to Youth Transitions*, London: Sage.

A good example of a qualitative longitudinal study taking a biographical perspective and of mixing in-depth interviews with other methods (see Chapter 3 in this book). The study used in-depth interviews and other methods to follow young people's transitions into adulthood over the course of a decade. Henderson et al. spell out their biographical approach in chapter 2, and appendix 1 of their monograph details the study methods.

Jordan, B., Redley, M. and James, S. (1994) *Putting the Family First: Identities, Decisions, Citizenship*, London: UCL Press.

This study is based on individual and joint interviews with higher income couples with children, exploring how they make choices and decisions about employment. It provides a good example of an interpretive, interactionist perspective (see Chapters 2 and 3 in this book). In chapter 2, Jordan et al. show how the interaction between interviewee and interviewer during an interview generates data, and appendix A is a thoughtful description of the research process as a whole.

Ribbens McCarthy, J., Edwards, R. and Gillies, V. (2003) *Making Families: Moral Tales of Parenting and Step-Parenting*, Durham: sociology press.

A study of resident, step and non-resident parents based on individual in-depth interviews, from an interpretive, constructionist perspective that focuses on meaning. Ribbens McCarthy et al. provide an extended discussion of the interview process in chapter 1 of the monograph, and the appendix discusses and reproduces the vignettes that formed part of the interview approach (see Chapter 5 in this book).

Walkerdine, V., Lucey, H. and Melody, J. (2001) *Growing Up Girl: Psychosocial Explorations of Gender and Class*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

This qualitative longitudinal study draws on in-depth interviews with middle-class and working-class girls over a 20 year period, and is a good example of research conducted from a psychosocial perspective. The methods used in the research are introduced in chapter 1, and in chapter 4 Walkerdine et al. discuss the extensive fieldnotes that they took describing their own thoughts and reactions to the interviews as part of their psychosocial approach (see Chapters 3 and 7 in this book).