

The interview

Part 1: Before the interview

- Assumptions, biases
 - Are we doing this ethically? Are we influencing their answers by how we ask the question?
 - Are we changing the nature of the thing we are asking about? Do we know the person?
 - Issues of inclusion/exclusion: who do we choose to interview, who do we not, and why?
 - Think about the power dynamic of interviewer/interviewee
 - An interview between peers? An interview between student to adult? Location? Setup?
 - Can an interview be a viable means of understanding internal/hidden thoughts/behavior/mindset (such as reading, or emotional state, etc.)
- Recording/equipment
 - How to set up your interview:
 - How to introduce your interview, explanation, provide a brief context
 - How to articulate what we are interested in without biasing your subjects
 - How to record?
 - Using an iPhone as recording
 - In-person? Over video? Over phone?
 - Nonverbal communication involved (ex. nodding, showing interest, boredom, etc.)
 - Talking about vs. writing down – how does the method of recording change the nature of your subject's response?
 - Group "public" responses vs. private responses from your interview subjects
- Have a list of questions, what information you need to get out of the interview
- Think through what is a manageable, usable amount of data from the interview (ex: 2 hours? 20 hours?)

Part 2: During the interview

- Approach/rapport
 - Where? [ex: a workplace, neutral environment etc.]
 - What is the interview style like?
 - Off the record, vs. on the record answers
 - The importance of using silence; when to pause, when to let your interview subject think
- Language/defining terms
 - Not a one-way mirror, think of the interview as a mutual process
 - Interview as process of meaning-making
 - Checking in process, triangulate answers to make sure there is mutual understanding

Part 3: After the interview

- Reflection/What the interview does to the interviewer
- Iterative, refine, refine
- Ethics of reporting – what do we share/not share (anonymity, controversial findings)