Theme Generation Using Smart Codes and Smart Groups in ATLAS.ti 22

Dr. Ajay Gupta

Professional ATLAS.ti Senior Trainer
Professor, VES Business School, India
Erasmus Mundus Fellow, University of Milan

Dr. Ajay Gupta

- Dr. Ajay Gupta has the rich and diversified experience that includes Indian Air Force, Banking, and Management education. He is a Professional ATLAS.ti Senior Trainer and Consultant (https://atlasti.com/support/consultants/)
- Dr. Gupta is an Erasmus Mundus Fellow, from the University of Milan, Italy. He completed his Ph.D. in management and labour studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and holds a Master in management from Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Manila, Philippines.
- He has taught in T.A. Pai Management Institute, Manipal, An AACSB, and prestigious management Institute in India, and is currently working as a Professor at Vivekananda Business School, Mumbai.
- Dr. Gupta has conducted several workshops on Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis using ATLAS.ti across sectors and disciplines. He is an invited faculty for many prestigious institutes like IIM, TISS, NITIE, MNNIT, NIRT, Chennai, Bank of Baroda Apex Academy Gandhinagar, and National Law University, Delhi.

Nature of Qualitative Research

Human Interactions

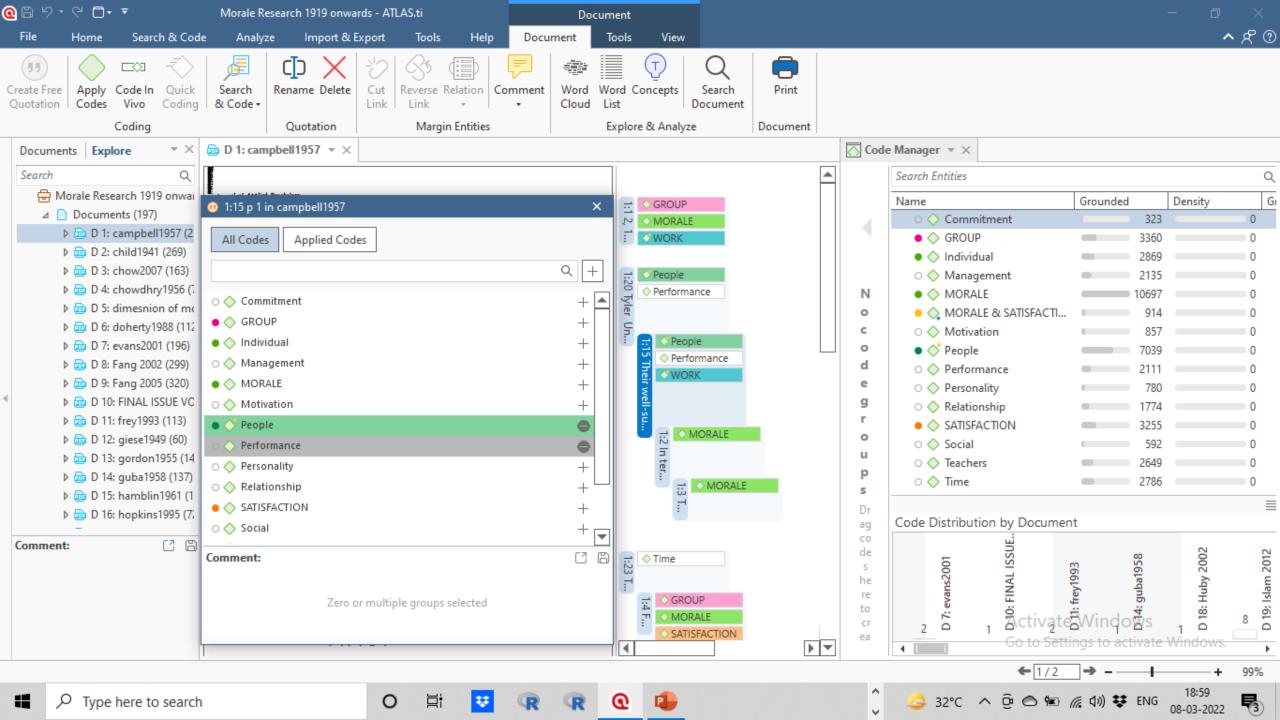
Contexts

What is qualitative research

- Qualitative research is characterized by an approach which seeks to describe and analyze the culture and behavior of humans and their groups from the point of view of those being studied.
- Qualitative research places an emphasis on providing a comprehensive or holistic understanding.
- Qualitative research relies on a research strategy which is flexible and iterative.

Code

- Discovering meaningful information from response through research objective lens
- Code is a foundation and first step in a deriving theme
- An inductive code is grounded in the data whereas a deductive code is grounded in theory
- An inductive approach to coding is used when little is known about the topic of study, and the study is of an exploratory type
- Deductive coding is based on hypotheses based on existing theory



Number of codes

- Saldaña (2016) suggests 50 300 codes
- Creswell (2015) stressed developing 30 to 50 codes, can be reduced even further to, say, 20, and can then be collapsed into about 5-7 themes
- Friese (2014) recommends 80 100 codes, which are divided into 15-20 categories that are grouped into 5 7 major concepts

Code category

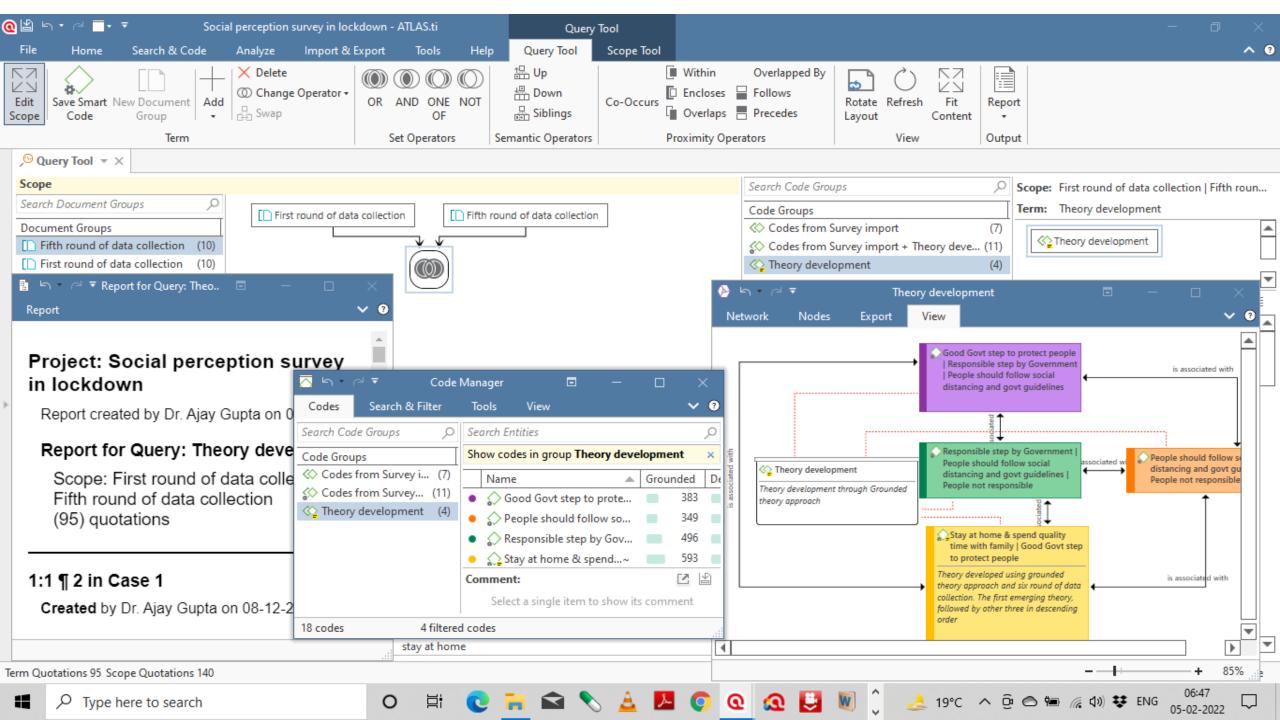
- Codes can be categorized in many ways, such as linking by showing appropriate relations, merging two or more codes that reflect similar concepts, and forming new codes which incorporate the previous ones
- After the categorization of the codes, the researcher creates groups.
 A group is the collection of code categories that indicate a concept.
 Code groups allow for wider relationships among codes

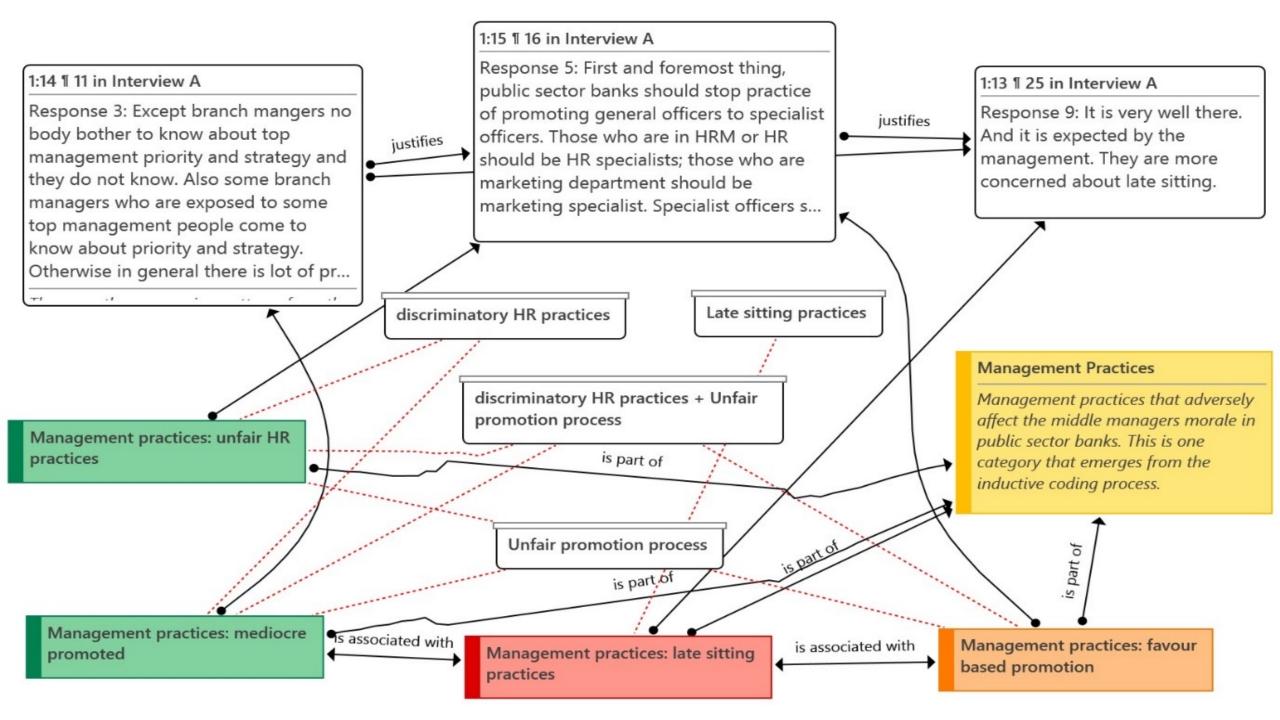
Code group

- Grouping codes based on homogeneous information, code attributes, and relationships
- Code group holds codes and code categories based on shared attributes and characteristics

Smart codes

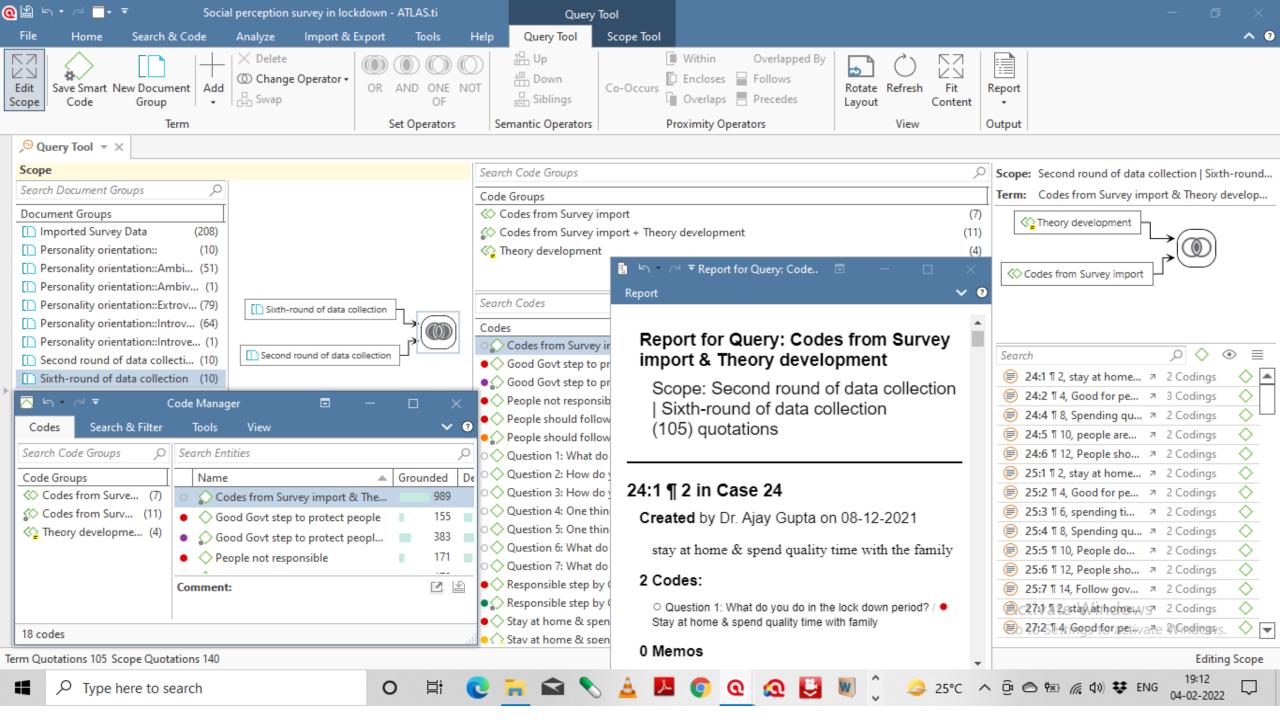
- Smart code is created to present themes from codes using relation linkages
- Smart codes link attributes of two or more codes using operators
- Smart codes are a combination of existing codes
- Smart codes enable researchers to generate various reports

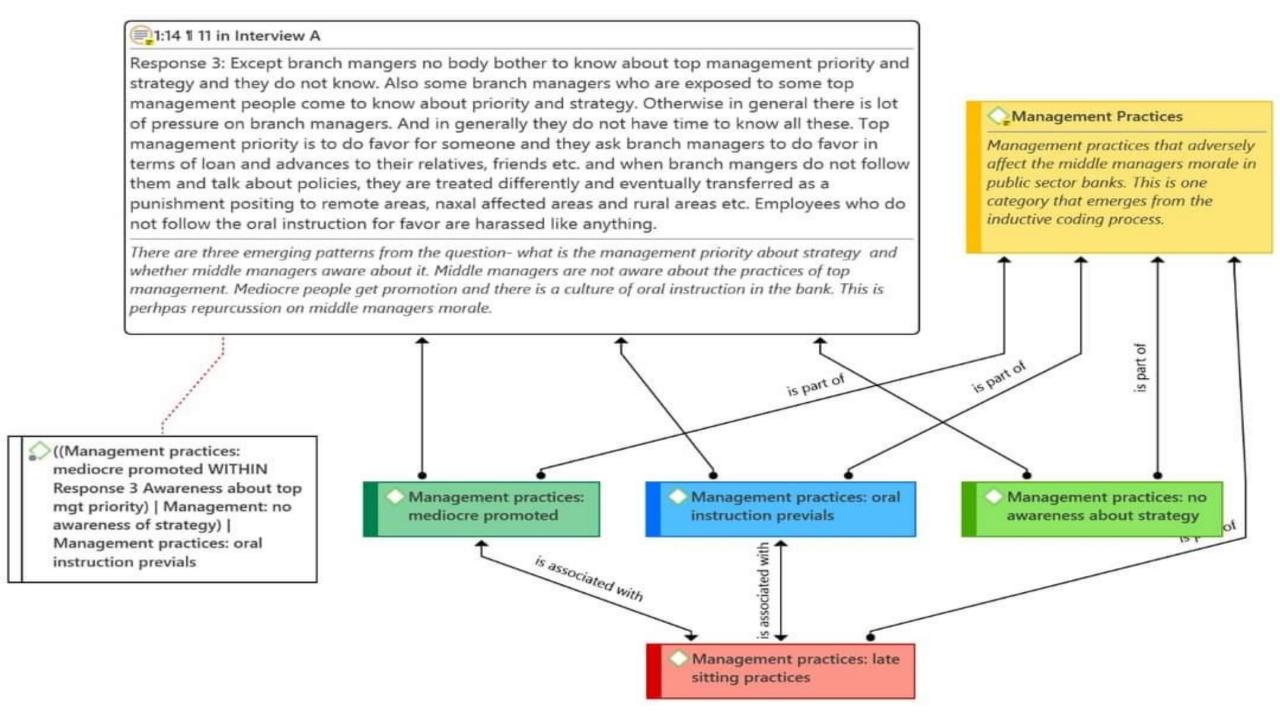


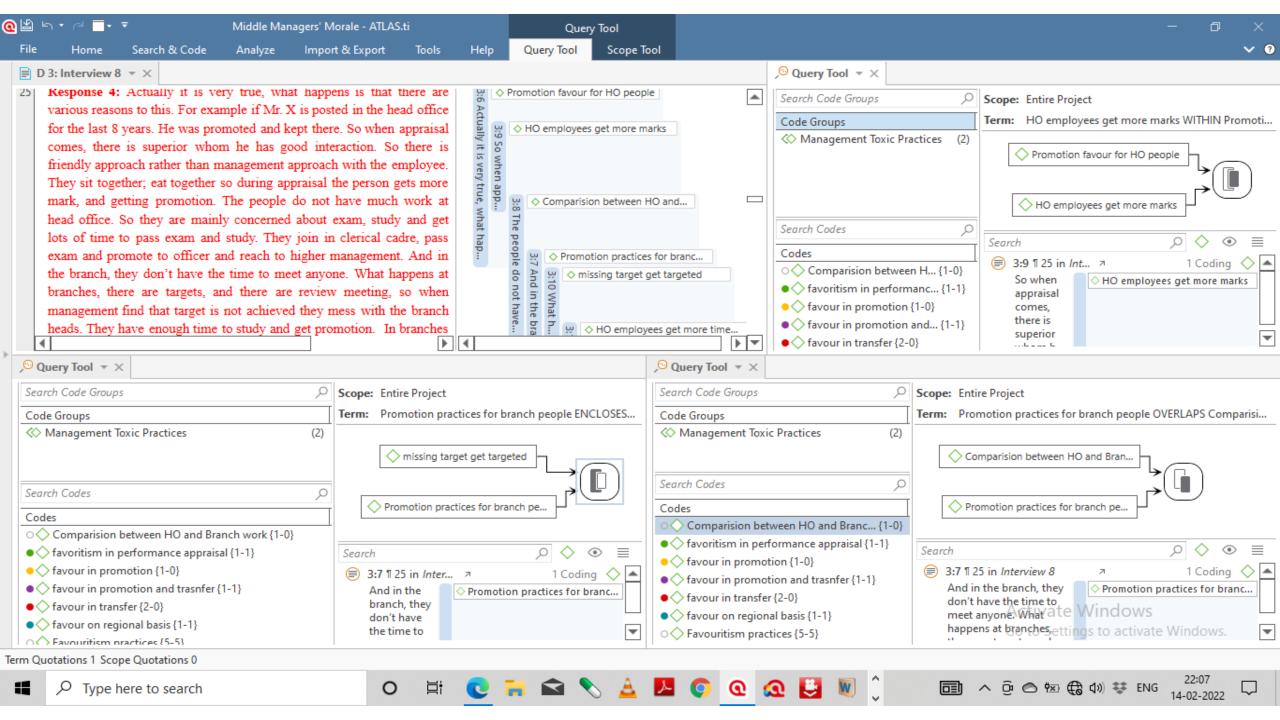


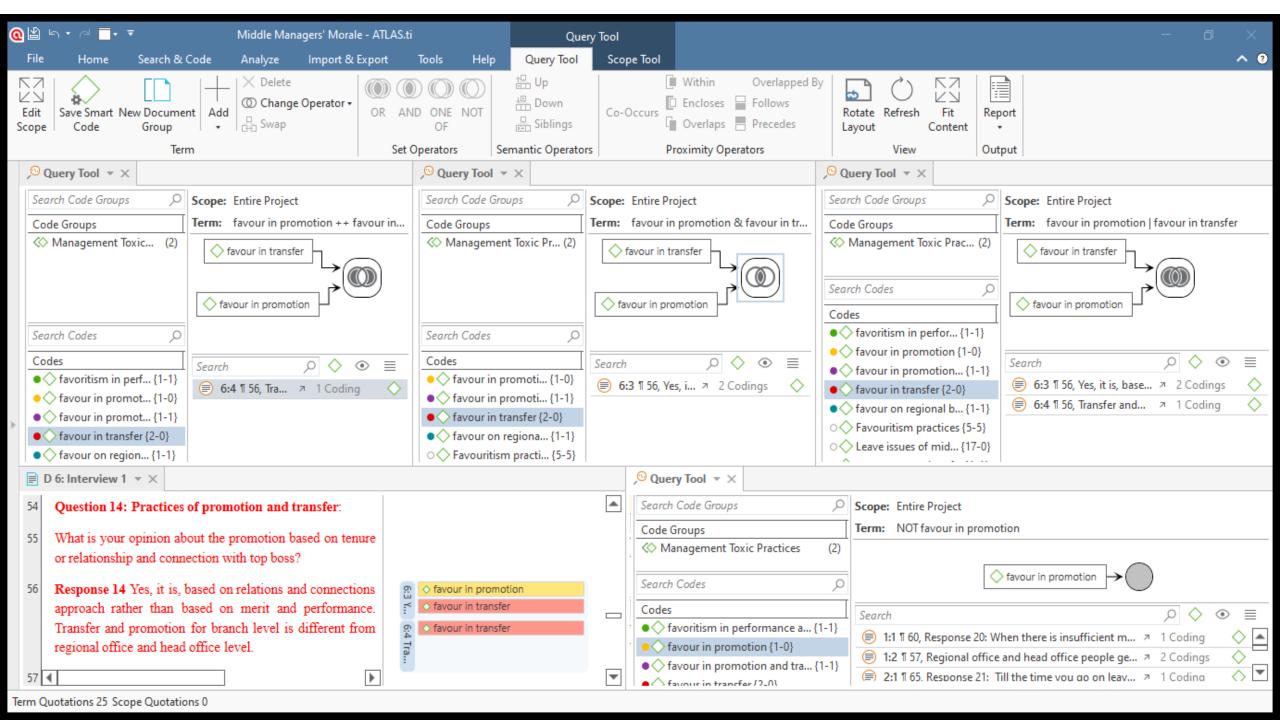
Smart groups

- Smart groups present themes from code groups using relation linkages
- A smart group is also the combination of many code groups using operators. The purpose is to create groups at an aggregate level. For instance, if a study has groups for gender, age, and location, smart groups can be formed



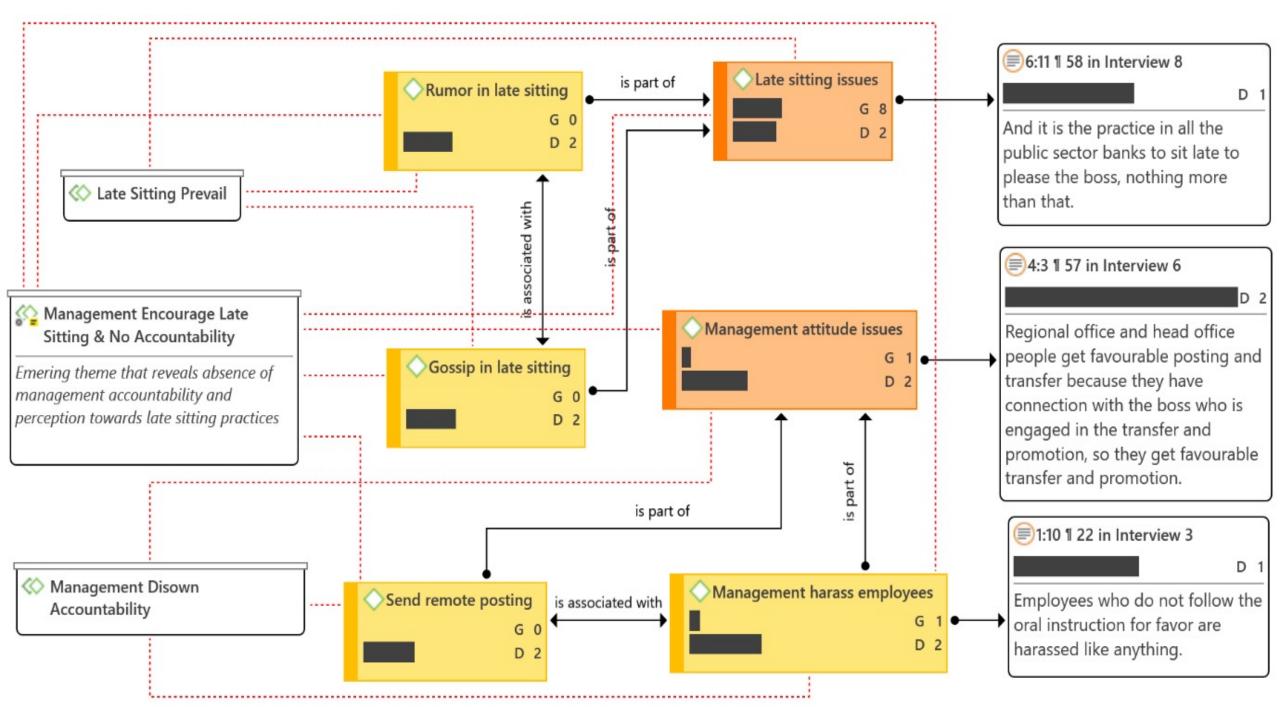


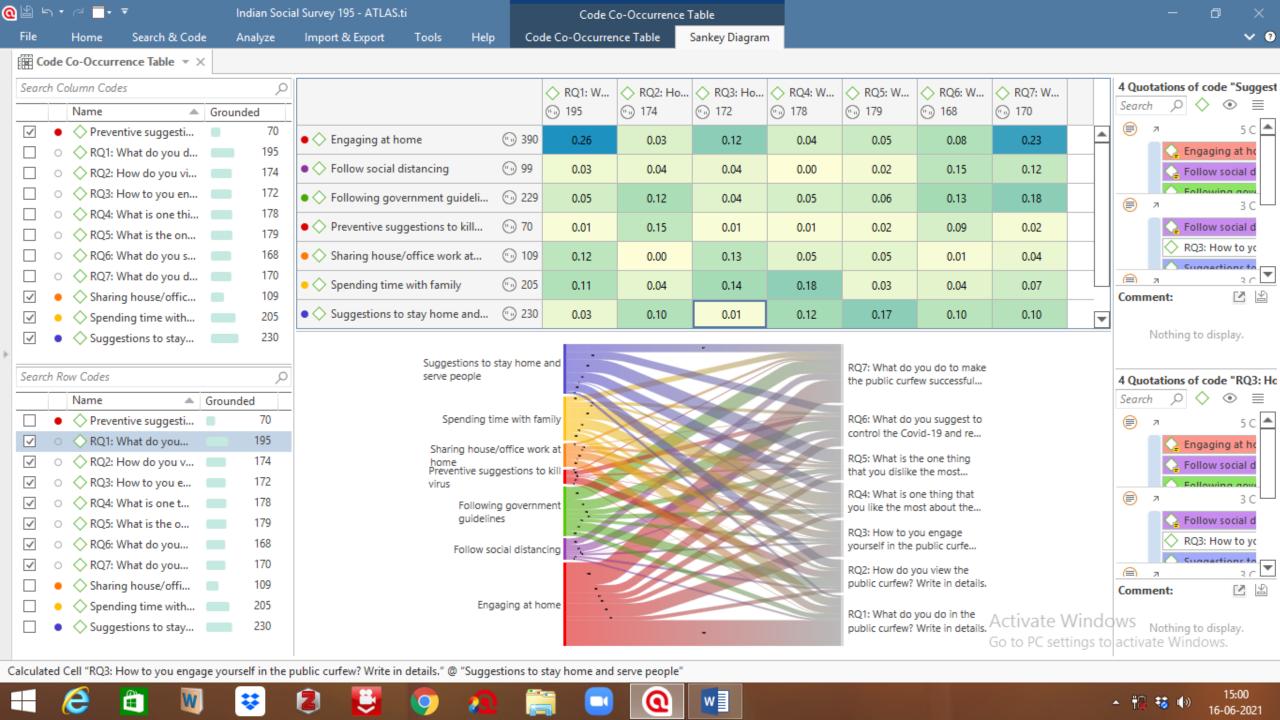


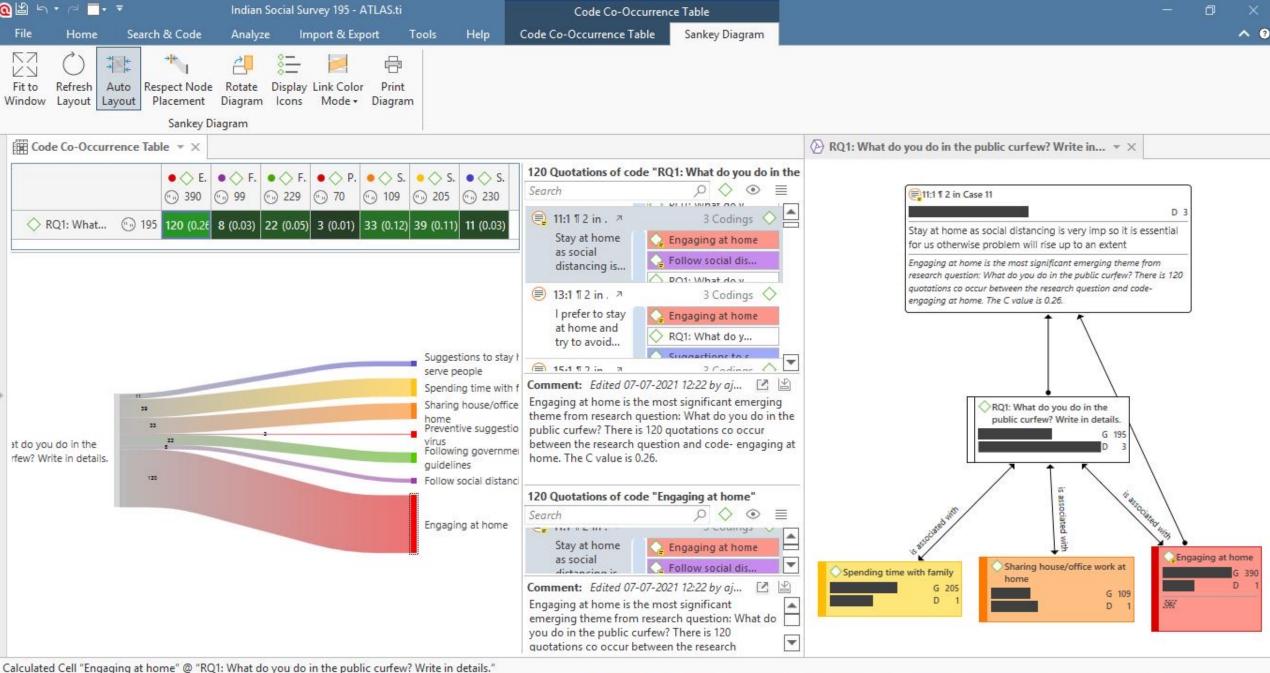


Themes

- A theme is patterned information emerging from responses and the researcher's field experience with regard to research questions
- Themes emerge from coding and memo-writing process with reference to research objectives
- Themes/theoretical models or a conceptual framework emerge from data analysis and analytic memos (Strauss & Corbin, 1990). Memos are a collection of the researcher's hunches, interpretations, queries, and notes from the start to the end of the investigation. They become part of the data corpus and are frequently reviewed























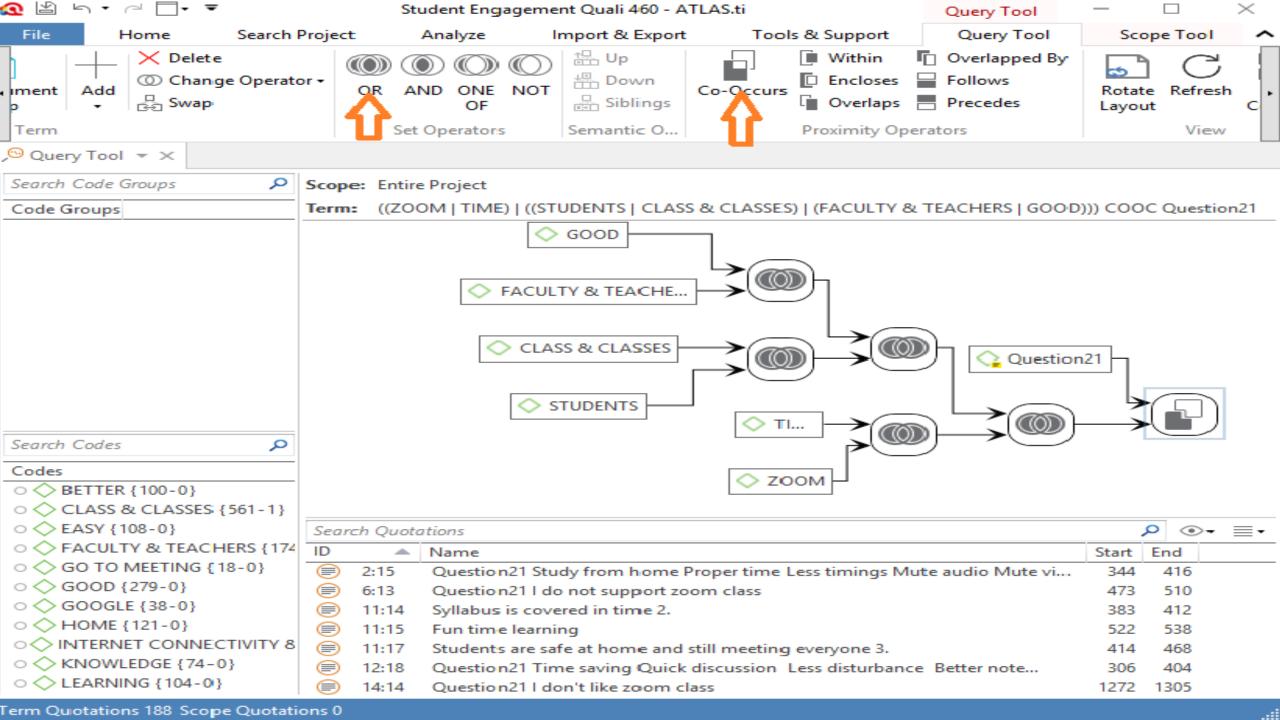


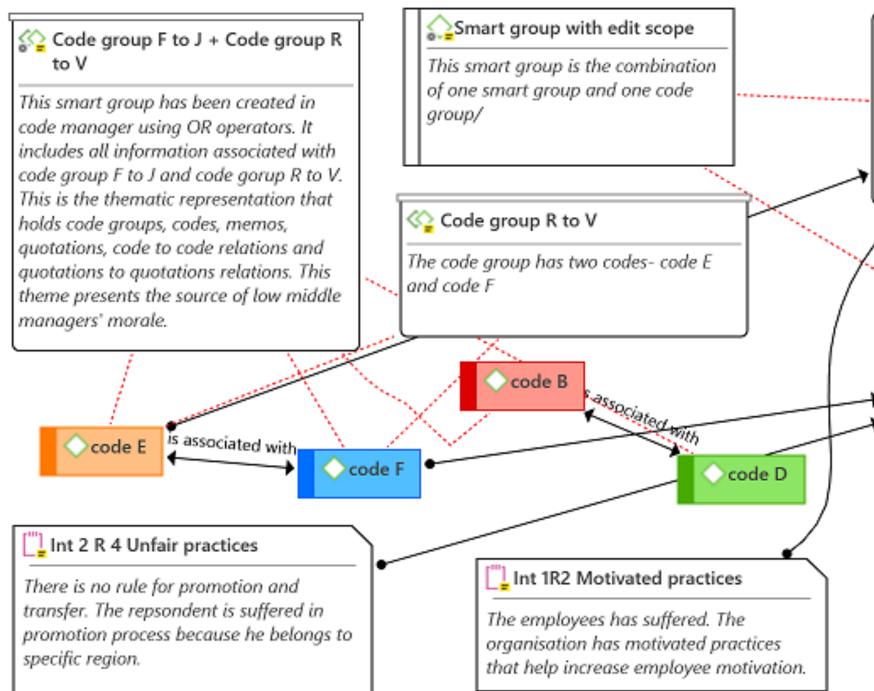














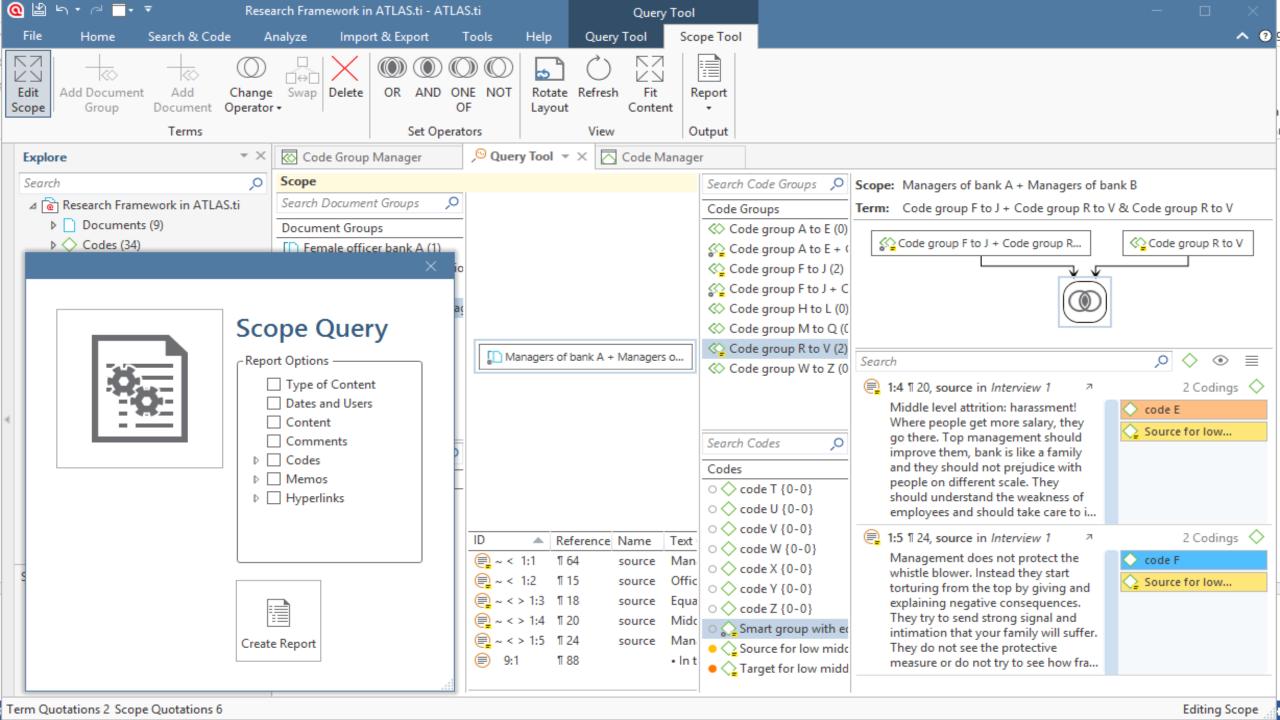
Middle level attrition: harassment! Where people get more salary, they go there. Top management should improve them, bank is like a family and they should not prejudice with...

1:5 1 24, source in Interview 1

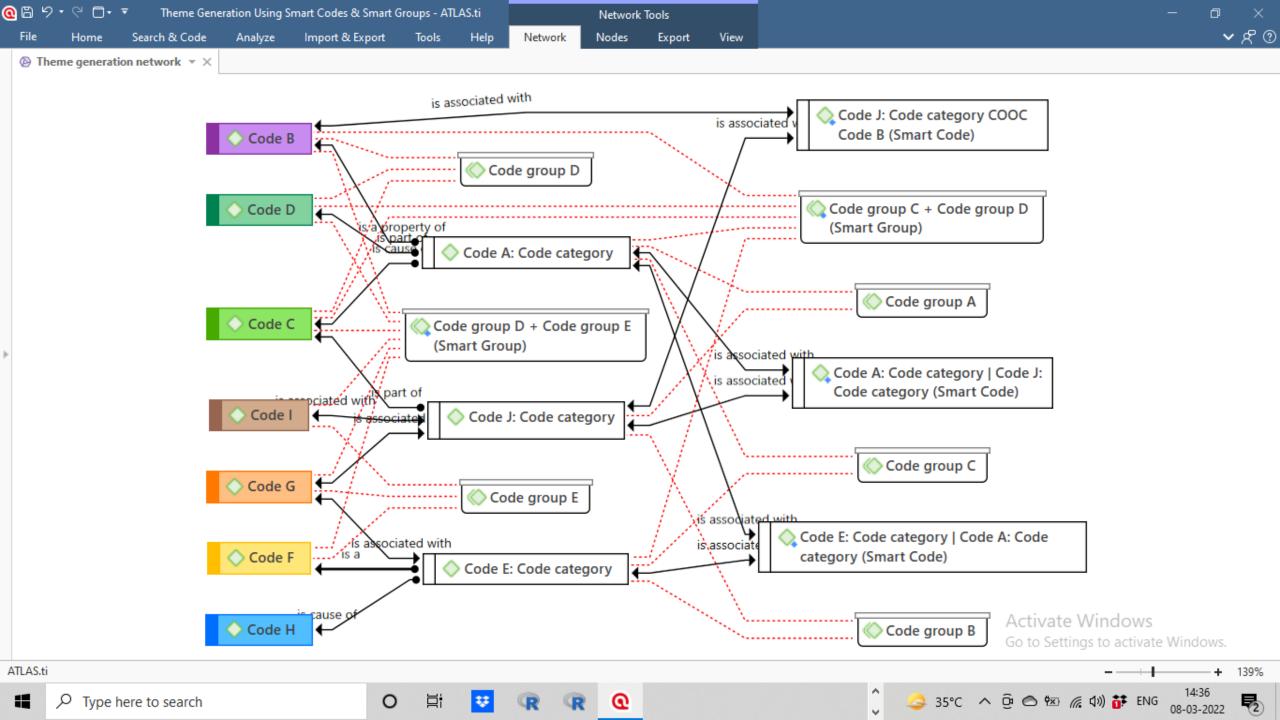
Management does not protect the whistle blower. Instead they start torturing from the top by giving and explaining negative consequences. They try to send strong signal and intimation that...

Source for low middle managers morale

This code represents reasons that lowers middle managers morale in the organisation.

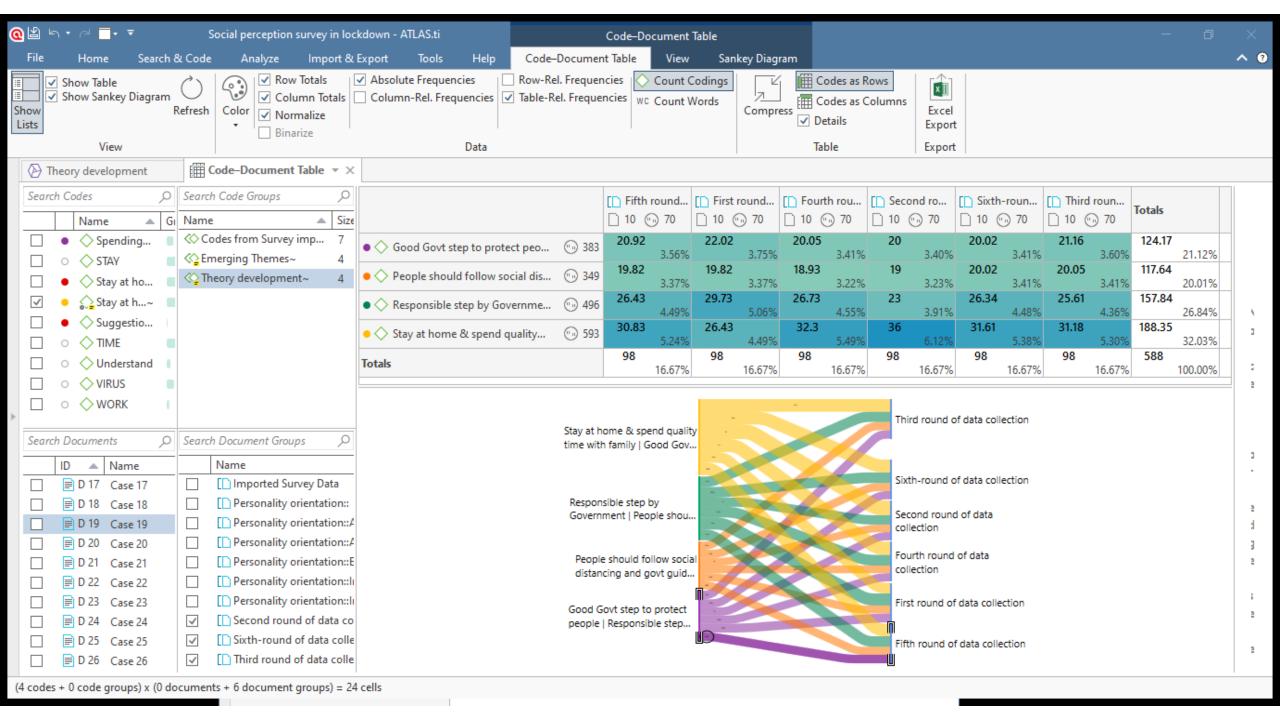


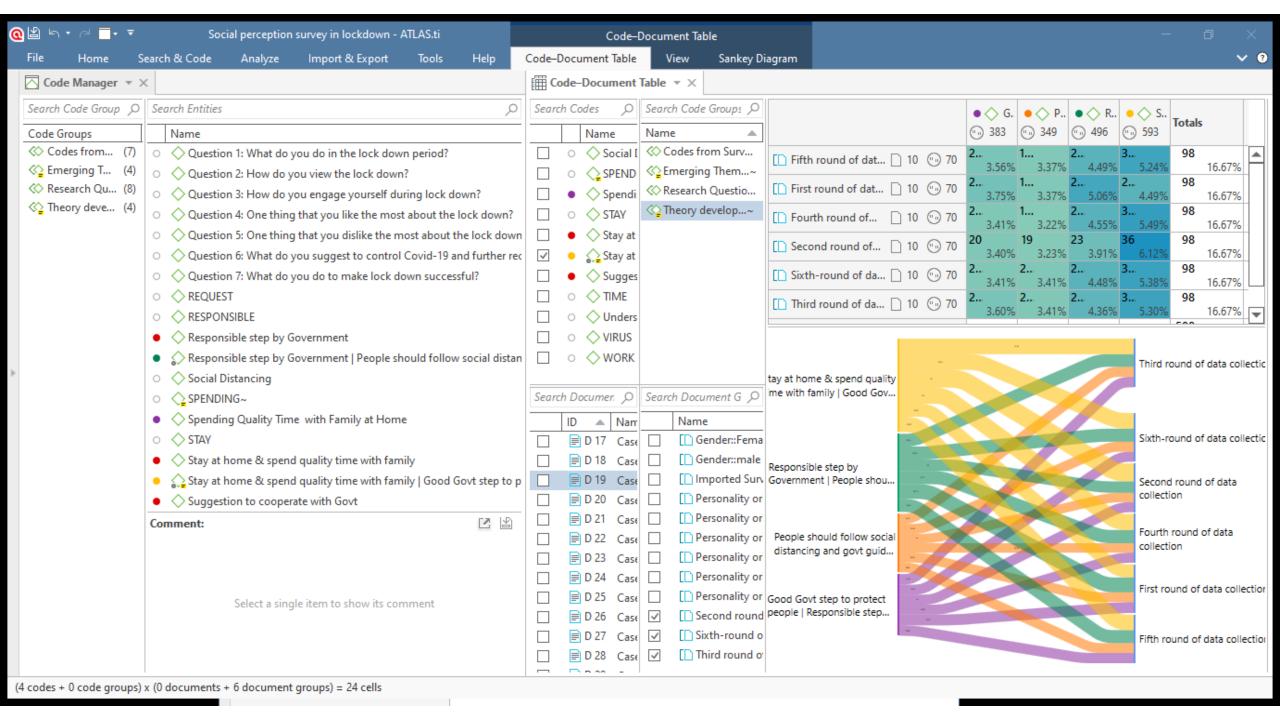
Respondents Code and **Emerging** Research Research Codes and and memo objectives questions themes memos responses groups 20 surprising ten memo respondents moments patterns five research questions 100 5 memo 20 memos responses groups Two research 4-5 themes objectives supported by five research 50 relevant 10 code 100 codes quotations questions segments groups & memos linked with themes



Grounded theory methodology

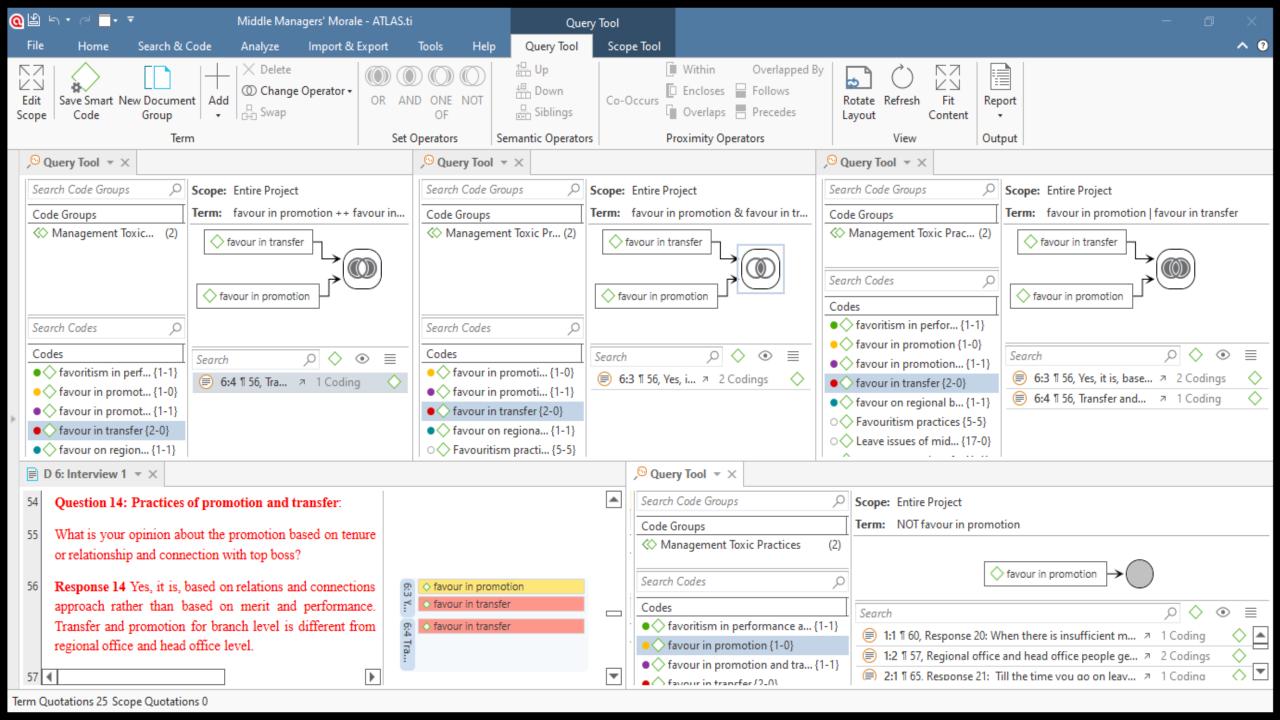
- Researchers using this approach should 'discover' the knowledge, concept, or theory that is reflected in the data (Strauss & Corbin, 1998) or, if it is not available, they should generate one
- In addition, they should also develop an abstract analytical schema of the process





Report generation

- Textual
- Network
- Excel



Thank you!