Data Analysis Using Interpretive Description Methodology

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Insights in Qualitative Research Methods





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

International Qualitative Research Toolkit Okanagan Campus

CONNECT LEARN EXCHANGE







The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.





SALLY THORNE INTERPRETIVE DESCRIPTION





SECOND EDITION

Nature of the Knowledge Needed for Practice

- Processual
- Evolving
- Flexible
- Infinitely Adaptive



Respect for Both Commonalities and Differences



 Draws inspiration from applied disciplinary epistemology rather than borrowed theory

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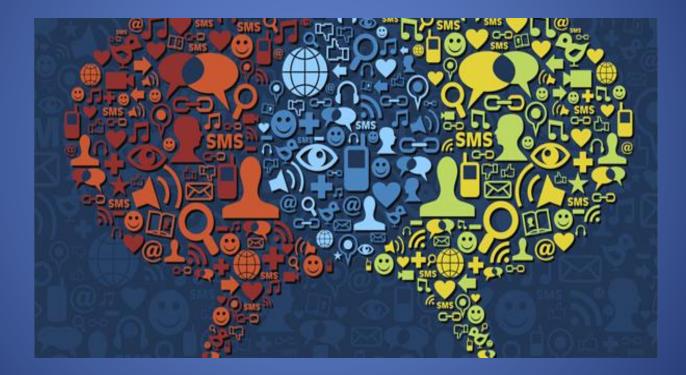
Ventures beyond description and theorizing into interpretation



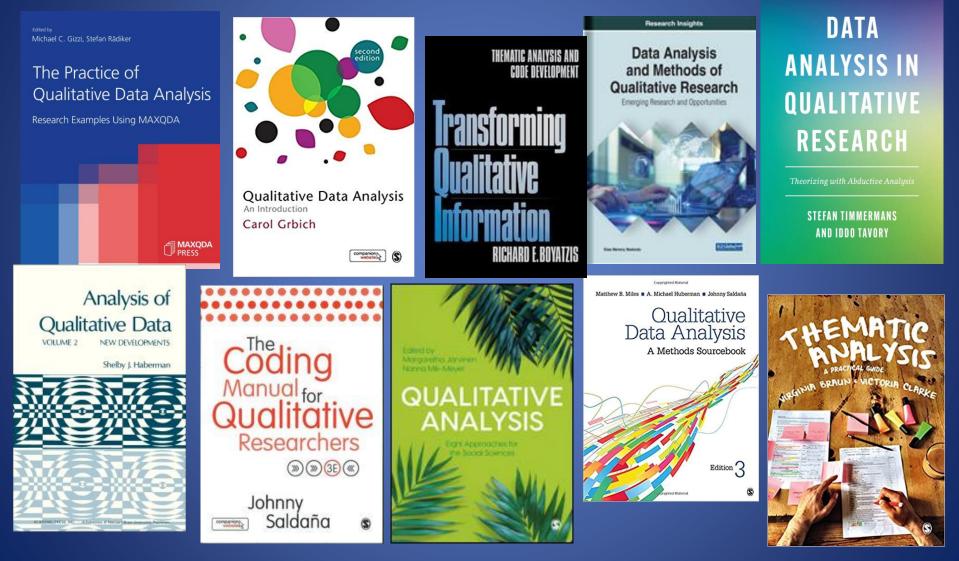
 Encourages creativity in the use of data sources and inquiry approaches



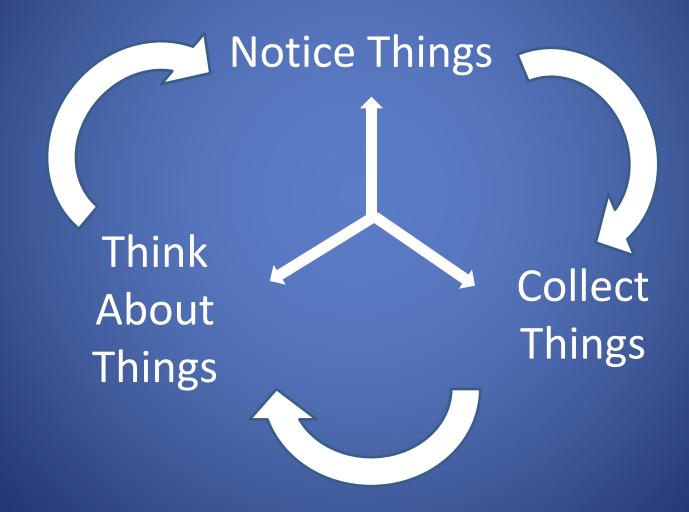
Builds knowledge mobilization into the initial design logic



Qualitative Data Analysis



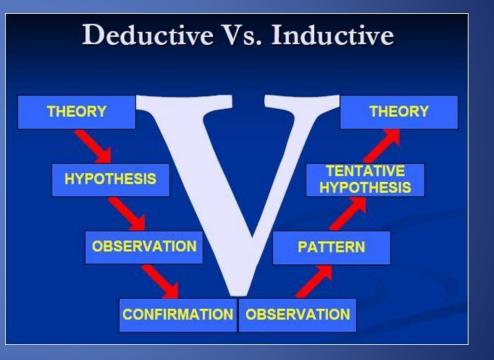
Qualitative Data Analysis





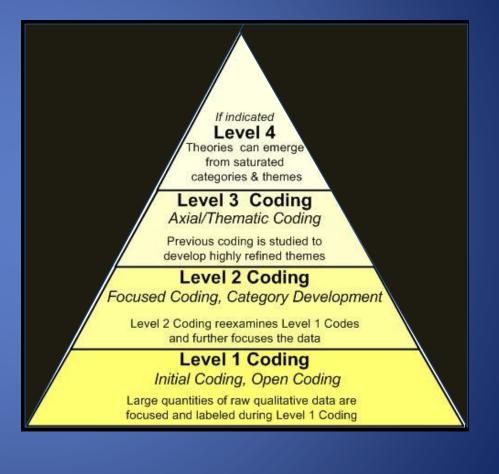
Deductive vs Inductive Analysis

- General to specific (eg theory to a particular instance of it)
- Specific to general (eg observations to conceptualizing/theorizing)

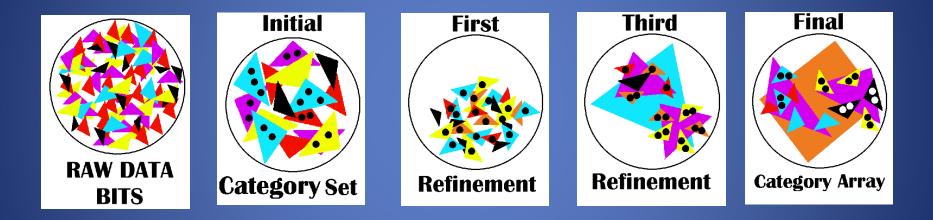


Coding and Sorting

- Organizing
- Attaching a signifier
- Stimulating constant comparative analysis



Constant Comparative Analysis

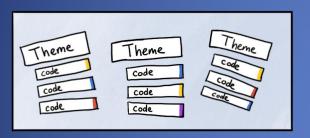


Conventional vs Applied Studies

Conceptualizing an Entire Data
Set as an Integrated Whole

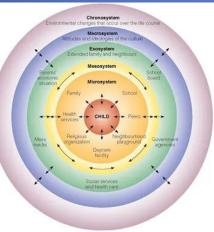
Extracting What Can be Learned





 Organizing According to a Predetermined

Theoretical Framework



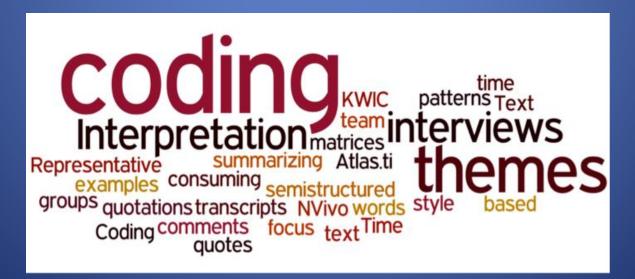
• Building a Case for a New Way of Thinking about a

Phenomenon



Moving Beyond Recipes

- Coding
- Themes, patterns, categories
- Taxonomies vs findings



Transforming Data into Findings

Conceptualizing the Analytic Process: *Finding the Knowable* Beginning the Analytic Process: *Moving Beyond the Self-Evident* Enacting the Analytic Process: *Engaging the Mechanisms of Interpretation* Concluding the Analytic Process:

Envisioning the Research Product



Applied Data Analysis



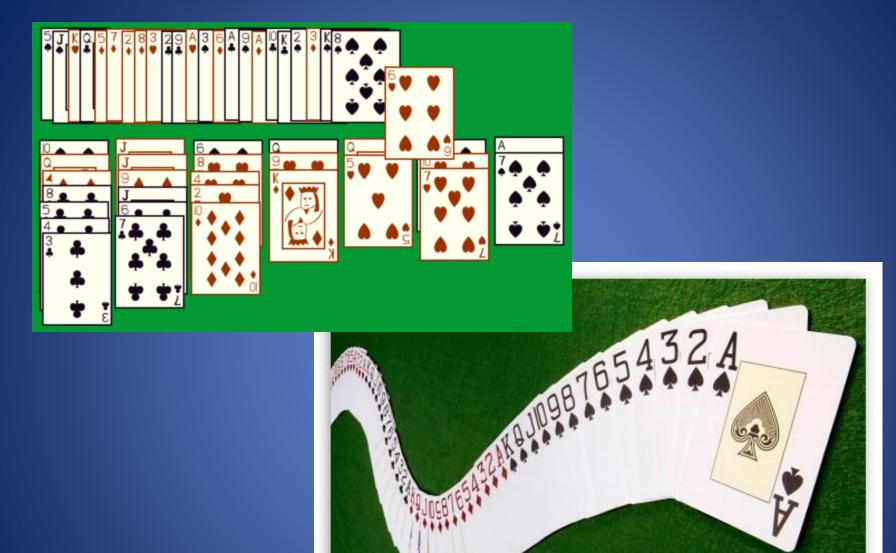
- Understanding why you are doing what you are doing
- Differentiating the technical from the intellectual processes
- Capitalizing on your insights, credibility checking and interpretive capacity (what might this mean? why might it matter?)

Working Your Data Set



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Guiding Light Throughout the Process

What's in the data set?



What am I asking of this data set? (research question

What does my intended audience need to know? (knowledge translation) Participant #210 Chronic Illness Communication Study Page 3

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142 143

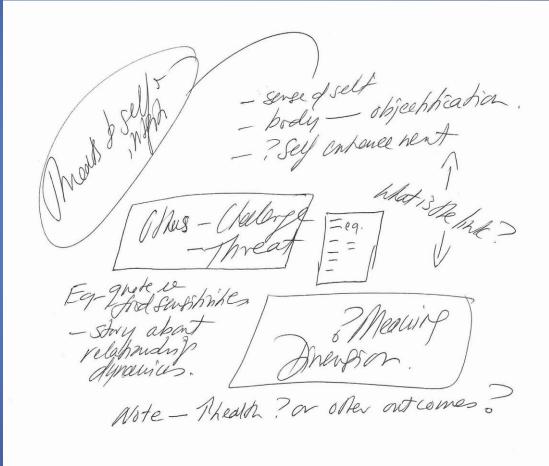
americaner is say?) 95 P: No because, well actually my, my personal family 96 physician was right on it but she couldn't get me in, - moderpre sie cle 97 you know, within a six month period. 98 99 R: Oh, at that time? 100 P: Yeah, and I said that wasn't good enough and, uh, 101 so actually this doctor that I'm talking about, he's 102 103 retired now and he suggested I go to Emergency, you know, until they get tired of me and, uh, you know, he 104 says, then, you know, that gets you in the system and, 105 106 uh, so what I did was I went to Emergency one time 107 because I was in a major attack, I couldn't feel 108 anything and, uh, but then they practically ignored me (in the Emergency which I don't, you know, I don't 109 discredit them because I don't look like I'm in any 110 111 type of emergency and there's more important people, 112 um, but when they did examine me on my chart it said 113 that it was psychosomatic, you know, so that's what they diagnosed me as, not as, uh, big stress and 114 stuff, Yeah, yeah, they didn't feel that, uh, I was 115 having any type of an attack or any type of, since, 116 fum, and, uh, so then it was about two years ago, 117 118 actually it was February the 14th, um, I had an attack, no it wasn't an attack but what happened was, uh, I 119 had a headache, a real major headache, I woke up with 120 121 it and I figured it was a sinus headache and, uh, so I 122 continued working all that week but it wouldn't go 123 away and like this was a Monday and I finished the 124 whole week and then come the next, the next Monday, I show up for work still and my, my vision was going 125 126 blurry and so I went and got a new pair of, uh, safety 127 glasses because I worked in a steel foundry and 128 because I figured they were getting all scraped and, 129 and, uh, still, you know, they're still all foggy and 130 blurry and so I talked to a couple of my co-workers 131 and I told them, you know, something must be wrong and 132 so I finished the week with my eye getting worse and 133 worse and really starting to hurt me and then the 134 Friday, I just couldn't take it anymore. I worked about half the day and I left and, uh, as it was, I 135 136 don't know why but I had, already had, uh, um, what do 137 you call an eye doctor? 138 139 R: Optomologist. 140 P: Optomologist, um, lined up because I hadn't had my 141

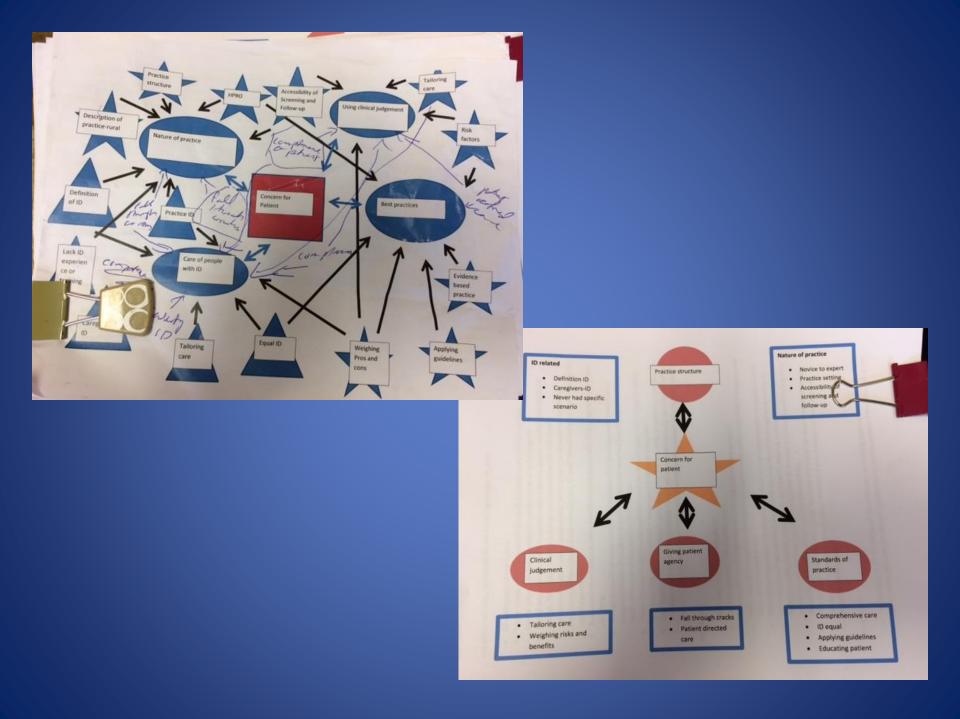
eyes checked in like five, ten years and so I wanted

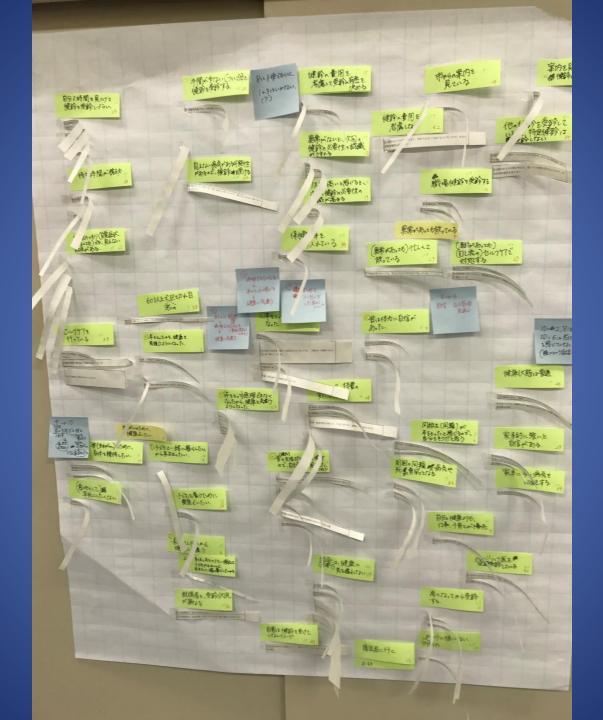
to have them checked and so it was a fluke, it just so

Getting the Inductive Juices Going

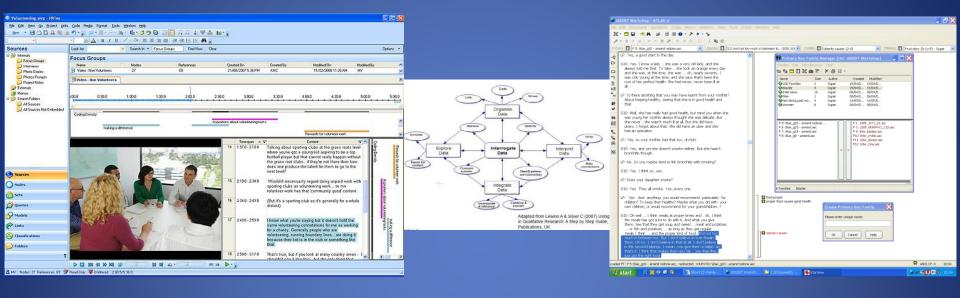
Working with Notes and Memos





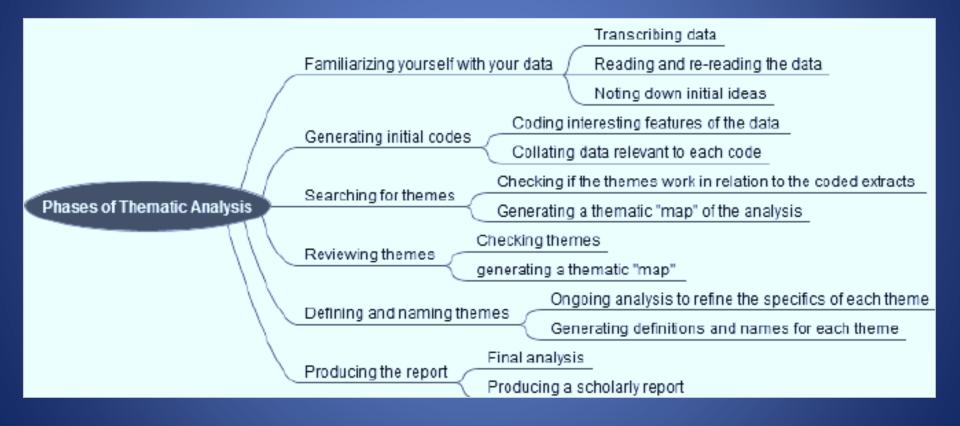


The Contribution of Software





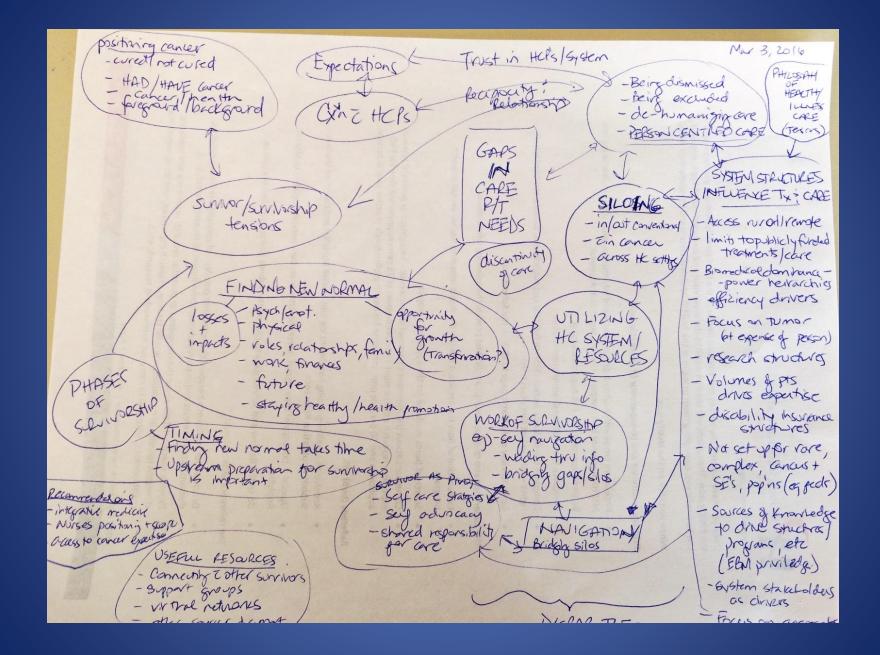
Beyond Thematic Analysis

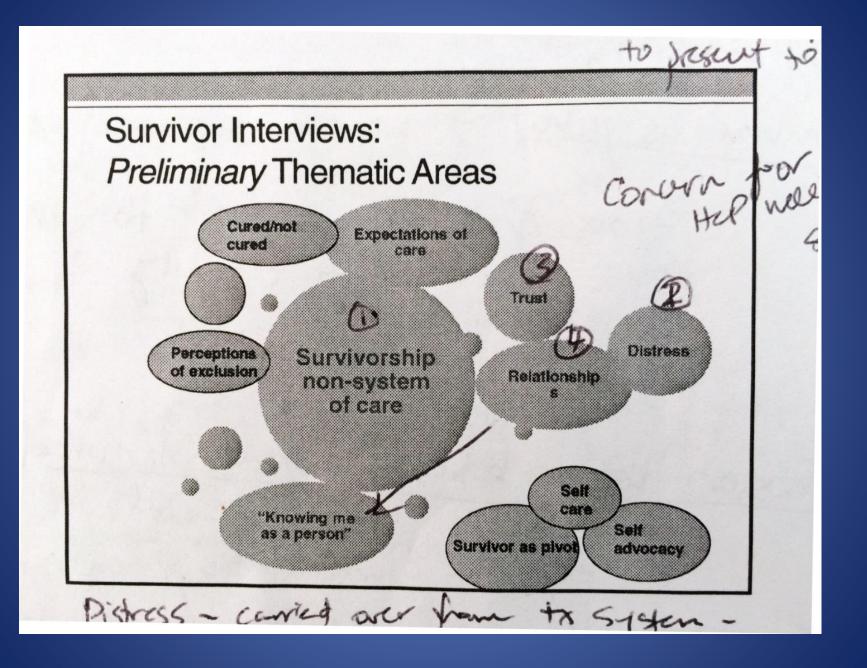


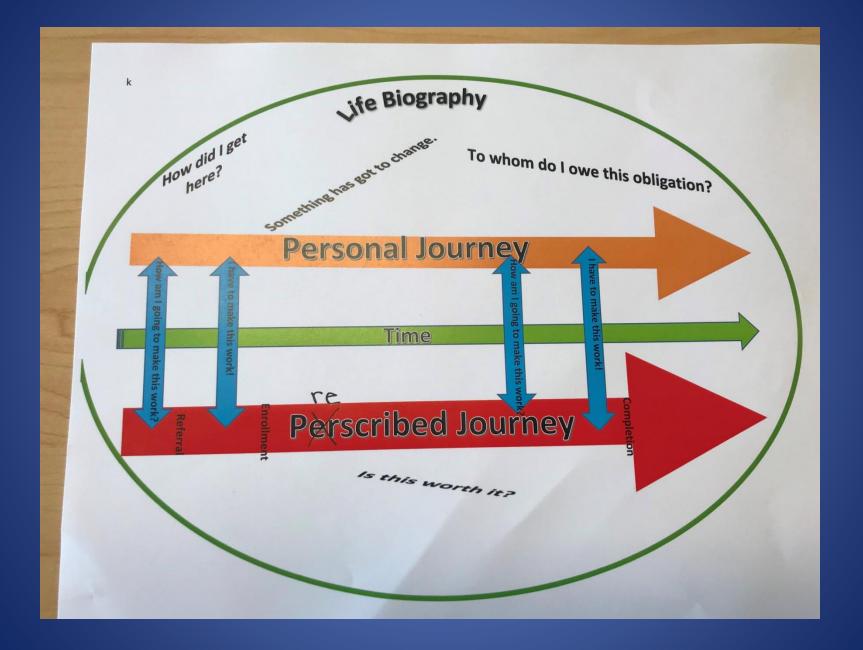
Analytic Engagement

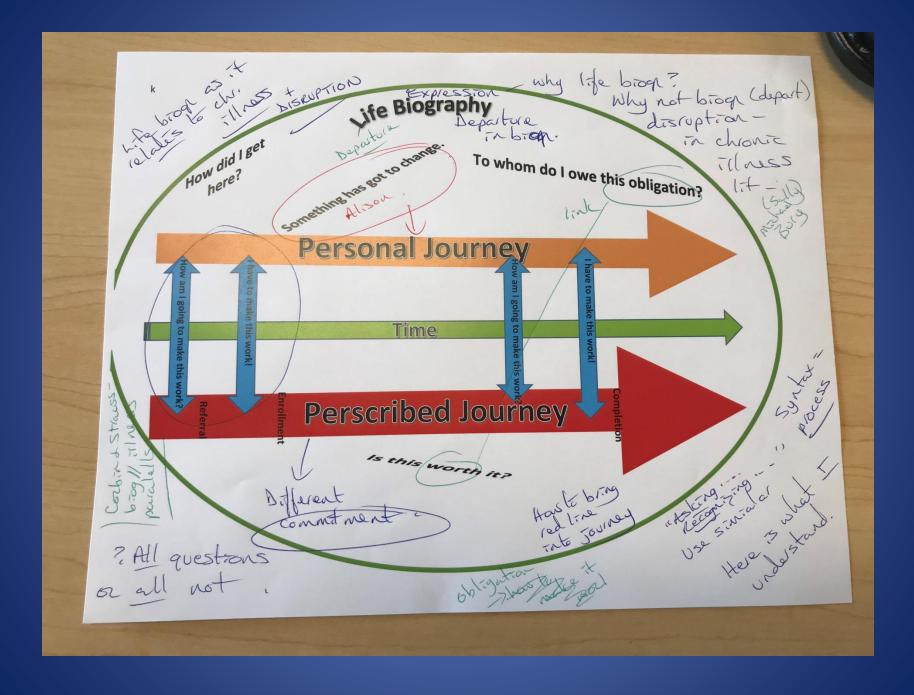


- What similarities and differences can we see between cases?
- What do we find that we expected to find and what was unexpected
- What common ideas come up in all or most cases?
- What story is emerging from these accounts that needs telling?







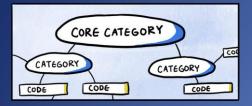


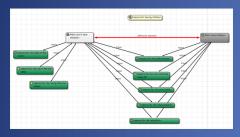
Deepening your Analysis

- Confirming your bases
- Expanding on associations
- Testing relationships
- Capitalizing on outliers
- Engaging the critic



Distractors





A step-By-Step Guide To Qualitative Data Analysis

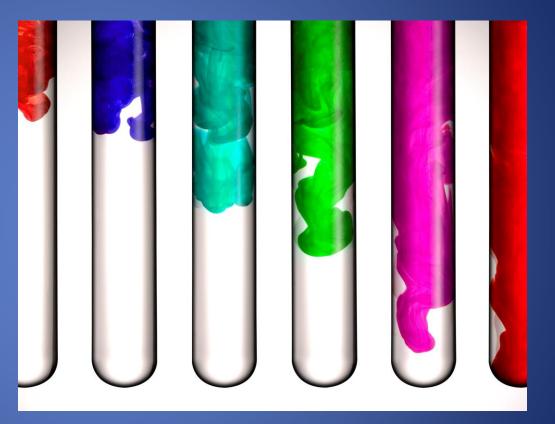
Organization of the collected data Transcribe the interviews, translate the data, record the details, label the contents.

Identification of framework The framework is the coding plan to structure, label, and define data.

Sorting the data into a framework

Descriptive analysis based on the framework

Second order analysis Identification and consolidation of recurrent themes, patterns present in the data.



Your Storyline

Figuring out What Commonalities Matter?

- What is already self-evident to your audience?
- What kinds of insights might expand on what people in the field already know?
- What is actually relevant to the applied & practice world?



And Explicitly Emphasizing Diversities

- What do they tell us about the phenomenon in the real world?
- What insights can we draw from the diversities we see about the possible diversity of the real world of practice?



Table of Contents

- Major and minor subheadings
- Syntax and grammatical form
- Overall and internal sequence and structure
- Linkage and transitions

Findings
Origination: Mask of Sick
Transformed Identity
Uniqueness
Cancer as Systemic
Deconstruction: The Disintegrating Self
Unawareness
Abstractification
Personification
Reconstruction: The New Normal
Regaining Control
Overcoming Vulnerability
Discussion
Conclusion

Understanding Lifestyle Management for Younger Women with Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection [SCAD]

- 1. Life Prior to SCAD
 - a. Life before SCAD
 - b. Pre-event stressors
- 2. The Dissection Occurs and Arrival at Hospital
 - a. Mental
 - b. Social
 - c. Physical
- 3. Admission to Hospital, Hospital Stay and Discharge
 - a. Lack of information
 - b. HCP lacked the knowledge
 - c. Poor communication
- 4. The Gap Between Diagnosis and Seeing the Specialist
 - a. Mental (why me?)
 - b. Social (life on hold)
 - c. Physical (symptoms experienced
- 5. Life After Seeing the Specialist
 - a. Mental (getting some clarity)
 - b. Physical (long wait)
- 6. Cardiac Rehab and Social Media Support
 - a. Mental (feelings about social media)
 - b. Social (barriers to cardiac rehab)
 - c. Physical (physical impact)

- 1. Lost in an Unfamiliar Diagnosis
 - a. At the time of SCAD
 - b. Hospitalization and discharge
 - c. Life at home
- 2. Searching for a Better Understanding
 - a. Searching for a reason
 - b. Comparing to others
 - c. Coping
 - d. Understanding the information context
- 3. Finding Support
 - a. Impact of specialists
 - b. Cardio-pulmonary rehab
 - c. Social media

Writing up Findings

- Coherent narrative vs
- Itemized collection of "things" (themes, categories, subcategories)

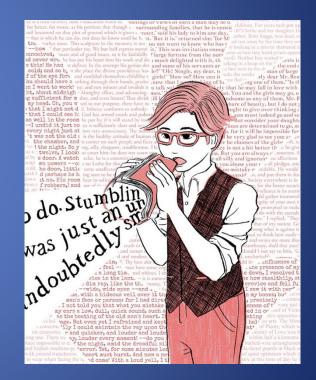
Sandelowski, M. (2007). Words that should be seen but not written. *Research in Nursing & Health, 30,* 129–130.



Finding your Writer's Voice

Three distinct writing elements:

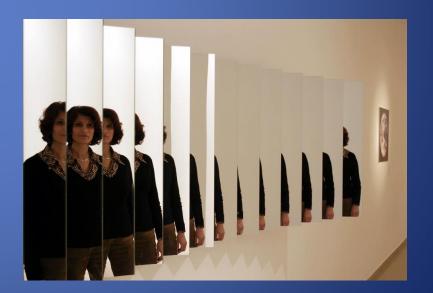
- Narrative description of key ideas (themes, patterns, main story lines)
- Illustrative material to bring the narrative to live and demonstrate thematic variation
- Interpretive commentary to explain what you think this means



Avoiding Common Analytic Hazards

- Premature closure
- Misinterpreting frequency
- Over-inscription of self





Formulating Findings for the Applied & Practice Context



Interpretive Description invites the researcher to articulate:

- Nature of disciplinary forestructure
- Justification for this particular study at this point in time
- Implications of data collection and analytic approach choices
- Influence of context on conclusions
- Implications of findings on practice insight (including new questions)



Issues of Rigor and Credibility

- Epistemological Integrity
- Representative Credibility
- Analytic Logic
- Interpretive Authority



And in terms of social contract.....

- Moral Defensibility
- Disciplinary Relevance
- Pragmatic Obligation
- Contextual Awareness
- Probable Truth



What Interpretive Description adds to the available methodological options

 Capacity to design studies to meet the knowledge needs of the applied & practice disciplines



 Freedom to depart from methodological rules invented for the intellectual projects of other disciplines

Enjoy your Adventures in Qualitative Inquiry!

