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Recap

Researching Crime and Justice

Workshop 10: Analysing Qualitative Data, Coding, and the Art of Documentary Analysis

Jose Pina-Sánchez



Workshop Aims

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Recap

- Discuss the method of documentary analysis
- Discuss some strategies to analyse qualitative data



What is a Document?

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- Anything in which human creativity is inscribed
- The lasting fragments of human social life

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What is a Document?

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- Anything in which human creativity is inscribed
- The lasting fragments of human social life
- Question: Can you think of examples of documents that can be analysed for research purposes?

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What is a Document?

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Recap

- Anything in which human creativity is inscribed
- The lasting fragments of human social life
- Question: Can you think of examples of documents that can be analysed for research purposes?
 - Written texts (e.g. books, diaries, newspapers, legislation, manifestos, debates)
 - Images and film (e.g. photographs, court sketches)
 - Statistical datasets (e.g. criminal returns)
 - Audio recordings (e.g. political podcasts)
 - Material items (e.g. police uniforms and vehicles)



Document Analysis

Document Analysis

Quantitative Approach
Qualitative Approach
Documentary Exercises

- Find out about their meaning and the people who produced them (e.g. their logics and rationalities)
- Can be used to extract the information beyond what it was meant to convey

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Document Analysis

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Recap

- Find out about their meaning and the people who produced them (e.g. their logics and rationalities)
- Can be used to extract the information beyond what it was meant to convey
- Allow us to see behind the scenes by careful examination
- Useful for typically impenetrable groups like police forces, or security and intelligence agencies



Document Analysis

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Recap

- Find out about their meaning and the people who produced them (e.g. their logics and rationalities)
- Can be used to extract the information beyond what it was meant to convey
- Allow us to see behind the scenes by careful examination
- Useful for typically impenetrable groups like police forces, or security and intelligence agencies
- It is predominantly used for:
 - Historical research
 - Researching court and police
 - Media research (e.g. representations of crime and deviance)



Documentary Analysis: Examples

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- Analysis of police uniforms can explain the true goals of specific police forces
- Analysis of pictures of criminals in Criminology books over the last century can provide new insights about theories of crime across history
- Review of judicial decisions allows insight into judge's views on whether committing an offence under the influence of alcohol should be considered an aggravating or a mitigating factor



Documentary Analysis: Examples

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- Analysis of pictures of criminals in Criminology books over the last century can provide new insights about theories of crime across history
- Review of judicial decisions allows insight into judge's views on whether committing an offence under the influence of alcohol should be considered an aggravating or a mitigating factor
- Question: How do you think quantitative and qualitative approaches to study documents differ?



Using Documents: Mining vs Dwelling

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'Mining'

- Extracting the information inscribed in the document
- Documents as a tool for research
- Skim/targeted reading

'Dwelling'

- Recovering the meaning embedded in the document
- Documents as the focus of research
- Immersive reading



Quantitative Approach to Documents

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Recap

- Many documents, little depth
- Approaches a cluster of documents, rather than individual documents
- Content analysis, the process:
 - Selecting documents
 - Coding content
 - Counting incidence of coded content



Discrimination in Sentencing

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Recap

- I am currently mining court records from The Law Pages
- This is a private company collecting different sorts of information relevant to legal practitioners
- This kind of online information can be exploited for research purposes under the 'Copyright, Designs and Patents Act' (1988)
- In particular I want to capture the defendant's name and the sentence outcome

Newspaper Crime Reporting

TABLE 2 *Proportion of Newspaper Newsholes Devoted to Crimes Involving Personal Violence*

Newspaper	Mean newshole area (cm ²)	Mean PVC area (cm ²)	$\frac{\text{PVC area}}{\text{Newshole area}}$ (%)	Rank
<i>Times</i>	11,777	503	4.3	(3)
<i>Independent</i>	10,251	305	3.0	(1)
<i>Guardian</i>	10,583	348	3.3	(2)
<i>Telegraph</i>	10,392	627	6.0	(4)
<i>Mail</i>	5,286	733	13.9	(7)
<i>Express</i>	4,465	480	10.7	(6)
<i>Today</i>	5,725	489	8.5	(5)
<i>Mirror</i>	4,346	747	17.2	(8)
<i>Sun</i>	4,284	815	19.0	(9)
<i>Star</i>	4,015	768	19.1	(10)
			$\bar{X} = 8.2$	

P. Williams and J. Dickinson (1993) 'Fear of Crime: Read all about It? The Relationship between Newspaper Crime Reporting and Fear of Crime', *The British Journal of Criminology*, 33(1), p.41.



Qualitative Approach to Documents

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- We recognise that documents are symbolic and seek to decipher their meaning
- Meaning produced in documents (texts) through language and representation
- The ‘cultural turn’: researchers aim to deconstruct texts to reveal meaning
- More imagination is required
- The researcher must think beyond the text and draw upon their knowledge of the social context in which the documentary materials were created



Qualitative Approach to Documents

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- There is less standardisation and the flowchart is not as clear as it is under a quantitative approach
- However, you still need to be as rigorous as possible



Qualitative Approach to Documents

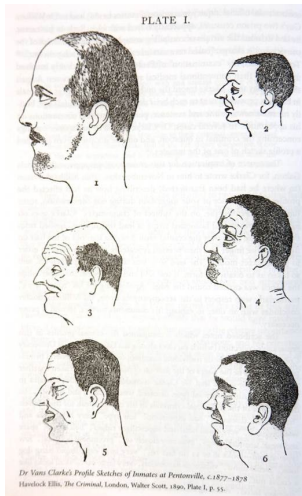
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- There is less standardisation and the flowchart is not as clear as it is under a quantitative approach
- However, you still need to be as rigorous as possible
- The basic framework for analysis should consider:
 - Medium - what type of document is it?
 - Origin - where, when, and by whom was it created?
 - Purpose - what does it set out to do?
 - Context - in what economic, social, cultural, or political environment was it produced?
 - Usefulness - is it authentic, credible and representative?



Exercise I

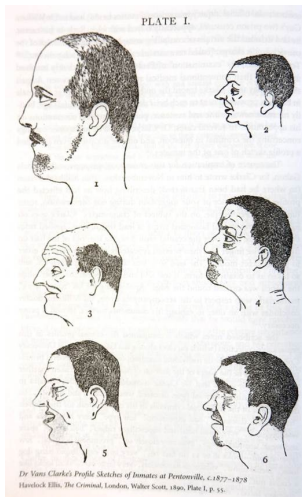
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H. Ellis (1890) *The Criminal* (London: Walter Scott), p.55, reproduced in N. Davie (2005) *Tracing the Criminal: the Rise of Scientific Criminology in Britain 1860-1918* (Oxford: Bardwell Press).



Exercise I



- Think of this as one of many documents to analyse
- To explore how crime theory has changed across time
- Can you identify its:
 - Medium
 - Origin
 - Purpose
 - Context
 - Usefulness

H. Ellis (1890) *The Criminal* (London: Walter Scott), p.55, reproduced in N. Davie (2005) *Tracing the Criminal: the Rise of Scientific Criminology in Britain 1860-1918* (Oxford: Bardwell Press).



Exercise II

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Recap

- Think of this as one of many documents that you will analyse
- To explore the question media influence on parliamentary debates
- Try to use the suggested framework
- You may also wish to consider:
 - What are the main research questions?
 - What sources are used?
 - Also, identify the linguistic and visual techniques used in this document
 - How do they fit with the articles purpose and context?



Final Considerations

‘Advantages’

- Plentiful material
- Cheap
- Few ethical considerations
- Relative ease of comparative analysis (geographically or historically)

‘Disadvantages’

- Too much material?
- Survival problems
- Potential access restrictions
- Blind-spots: no substitute for people



Analysing Qualitative Data

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Recap

- Perhaps one of the most difficult tasks a qualitative researcher faces
- Because of its reliance on prose (i.e. field notes, interview transcripts, documents, etc.) qualitative research rapidly generates large and cumbersome databases
- This richness makes it hard to find analytical paths throughout
- The analysis of qualitative data often lack the well-established and widely accepted rules governing quantitative data
- Instead we can provide broad guidelines



Analysing Qualitative Data

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Recap

- General strategies:
 - Analytic Induction
 - Grounded Theory
 - Narrative Analysis
 - Thematic Analysis
- Coding:
 - Steps
 - Considerations
 - Problems



Deductive Approach

- The initial research question(s) guides the analysis
- The research question is operationalised into specific hypotheses
- Which are tested once the data is collected and analysed
- Useful approach when the interest lies on testing theories, assessing policy, etc
- Predominant in quantitative research but perfectly valid for qualitative research too
- The 'fluidity' of qualitative methods allows us to incorporate inductive elements more naturally

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Deductive Approach

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Recap

- 1 Research Question
- 2 Hypothesis
- 3 Data Collection
- 4 Data Analysis
- 5 Conclusions



Analytic Induction

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Recap

- ① Rough definition of a research question
- ② Hypothetical explanation
- ③ Data collection (examination of cases)
- ④ If any deviant cases found, redefine or reformulate hypothesis
- ⑤ Continue until all cases fit the hypothesis



The Process of Analytic Induction

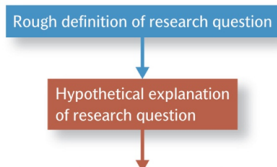
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The Process of Analytic Induction



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Source: Bryman (2014)



The Process of Analytic Induction



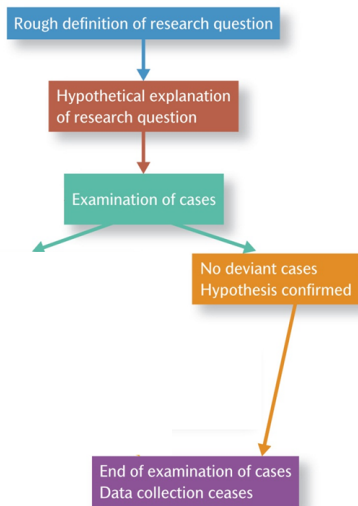
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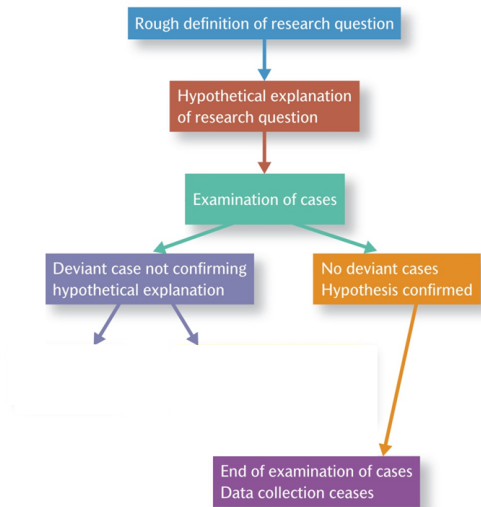
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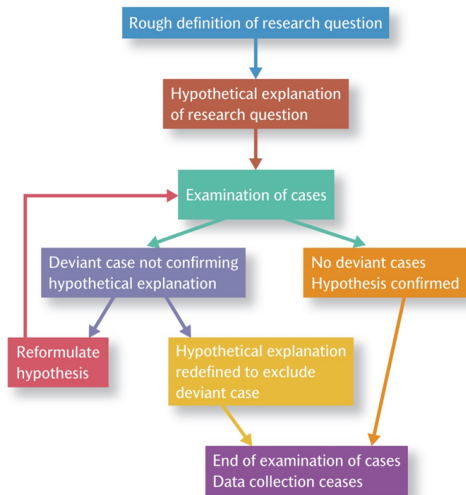
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The Process of Analytic Induction



Source: Bryman (2014)

The Process of Analytic Induction



Source: Bryman (2014)



Grounded Theory

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Recap

- Many qualitative researchers favour a ‘grounded approach’
- Avoid going into the field with too many pre-conceived ideas
- Instead, it is expected that the data will naturally give rise to different concepts and ideas, with which to generate a theoretical explanation
- Iterative process:
 - Different concepts and ideas evolve as the research progresses
 - Repetitive interplay between data collection and analysis / theory building



Tools for Grounded Theory

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Recap

- Theoretical sampling
- Coding:
 - begins during initial stages of research
 - important first step in generating theory
- Theoretical saturation
- Constant comparison:
 - between concepts / categories



Workflow in Grounded Theory

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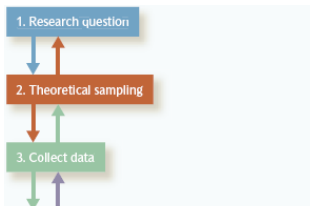
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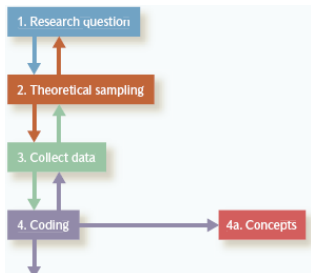
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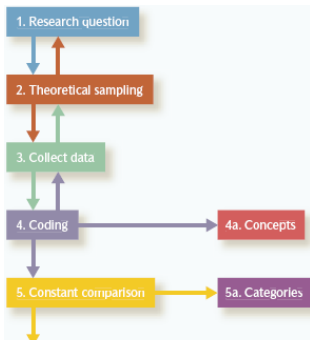
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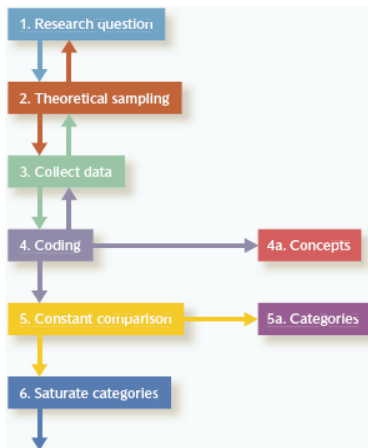
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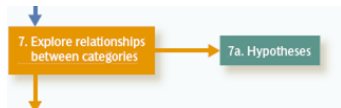
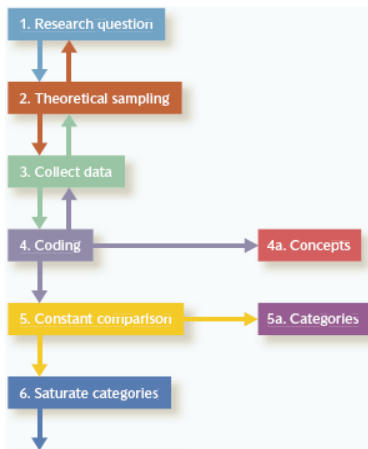
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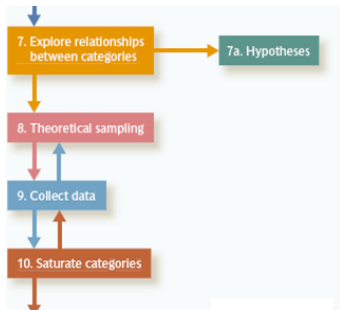
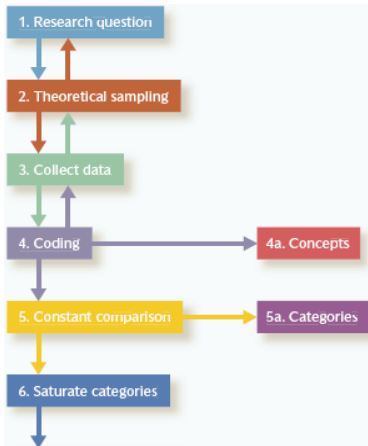
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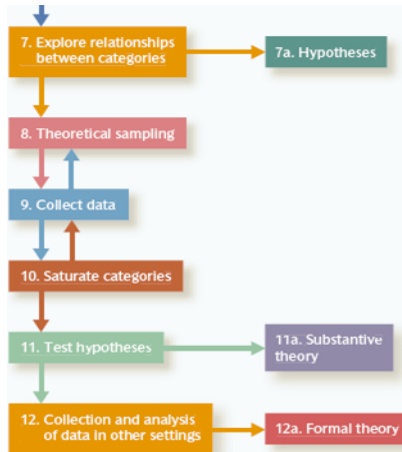
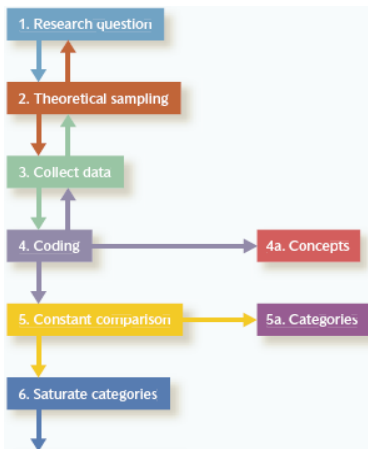
Source: Bryman (2014)

Workflow in Grounded Theory



Source: Bryman (2014)

Workflow in Grounded Theory



Source: Bryman (2014)

Criticisms of Grounded Theory

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Recap

- Researcher cannot suspend awareness of theories and concepts (Bulmer, 1979)
- Funding proposals require clear statement of aims, theories and research questions
- Time consuming
- Does not necessarily produce a theory - usually specific explanations of substantive issues
- Confusing use of terms 'concepts' and 'categories'
- Fragments data - loss of context and narrative flow (Coffey & Atkinson, 1996)
- Competing accounts of what is involved



Data Coding

- A reductive process that facilitates manipulation of the data

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Data Coding

- A reductive process that facilitates manipulation of the data
- Following the transcription of data (from interviews, focus groups, etc):
 - Involves bringing a measure of organisation to the data and identifying conceptual categories
 - Involves reviewing the data and attaching tags, labels, notes or memos
 - Can be done manually or electronically using colour coded pens, highlighting features of word processors and NVivo and the like

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- A reductive process that facilitates manipulation of the data
- Following the transcription of data (from interviews, focus groups, etc):
 - Involves bringing a measure of organisation to the data and identifying conceptual categories
 - Involves reviewing the data and attaching tags, labels, notes or memos
 - Can be done manually or electronically using colour coded pens, highlighting features of word processors and NVivo and the like
- A reductive process that facilitates manipulation of the data
- As a preamble to interpreting or ‘going beyond the data’:
 - Thinking creatively
 - Generating theories

Considerations in Developing Codes

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- What does this item of data represent?
- What is this item of data about?
- Of what general category/topic is this item of data an instance?
- What question about a topic does this item of data suggest?
- What sort of answer to a question about a topic does this item of data imply?



Considerations in Developing Codes

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- What does this item of data represent?
- What is this item of data about?
- Of what general category/topic is this item of data an instance?
- What question about a topic does this item of data suggest?
- What sort of answer to a question about a topic does this item of data imply?
- What is happening here?
- What are people doing?
- What do people say they are doing?
- What kind of event is going on?



Steps and Considerations in Coding

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Recap

- 1 Code as soon as possible
- 2 Read through your initial set of transcripts
- 3 Do it again !
- 4 Review your codes
- 5 Consider more general theoretical ideas in relation to codes and data
- 6 Any one item of data can and often should be coded in more than one way
- 7 Do not worry about generating what seem to be too many codes
- 8 Keep coding in perspective it is not the whole analysis



Exercise IV

Document
Analysis
Quantitative
Approach
Qualitative
Approach
Documentary
Exercises

Analysing
Qualitative Data
Analytic
Induction
Grounded
Theory
Coding
Coding Exercise
Interpreting
Data
NVivo Tutorials
Secondary Data

Recap

- The handout represents an excerpt of an interview with a police officer
- The topic of the interview is ‘Practices of Restorative Justice in Lancashire’
- Try to identify the following:
 - Which type of interview is it?
 - Do you think this is an appropriate method for the topic of study?
 - What themes can you identify?



Problems with Coding

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Recap

- Losing the context of what was said (extracting sections of data)
- Fragmentation of data - loss of narrative flow (Coffey & Atkinson, 1996)
- Risk of only providing descriptive account of data rather than theorising



Interpreting Data

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Recap

- Having coded/categorised your data, the final stage of the analytical process is data interpretation
 - Examining the data for embedded meanings
 - Often involves stepping back from the data to think through it and its meanings
 - In working through the connections and importance of particular themes more will come to light
- Often interpretation can draw upon established theories, concepts and ideas
 - Do my findings contradict any existing ideas, concepts, theories?
 - Do they confirm or reinforce any established ideas, concepts or theories?



Software for Qualitative Data Analysis

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Recap

- There are a number of computer software packages available to facilitate the analysis of qualitative data
- One of the most popular is NVivo
- Tutorials:
 - NVivo Training and Support
 - Tutorials and Guide



Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data

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Recap

- Secondary analysis offers rich opportunities
 - The tendency for qualitative researchers to generate large and unwieldy sets of data means that much of the material remains under-explored
- Although it is not perfect
 - It may be hard to understand the original context
 - There may be ethical issues concerning participant permissions
- Interesting archives and data repositories
 - ‘Qualidata’ used to be the main archive for qualitative data
 - However, it has now being absorbed by the UK Data Service



Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data

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Recap

- Having a quick look around I found datasets publicly available on a number of interesting topics:
 - Experiences of hate crime victimisation
 - Views on the Community Justice Court
 - Youth offending
 - Evaluating police behaviour (not classified as qualitative)
- Hint: go to ‘Data Type’ and filter by ‘Qualitative and mixed methods data’
- Each entry covers information on:
 - Subject
 - Method
 - Sample size
 - Research published using that data



Recap

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Recap

- We have learnt about a new research method: Documentary Analysis
- About a couple of strategies to qualitative data analysis: Analytic Induction and Grounded Theory
- And a few useful guidelines to help you analyse qualitative data
- Next session after the break, how to write a research proposal