

Workshop 3: Conducting Narrative Interviews

In pairs, conduct narrative interviews using the below guidelines. Try to take notes of on the interviewee's response throughout. One of you should take on the role of interviewer, and the other the role of the interviewee.

You should spent a total of 45 minutes on this task: 20 minutes on Phase 1, 5 minute break to go through your notes, then 15 minutes on Phase 2. Finally, spend 5 minutes at the end discussing and noting down some lessons from this task to share with the other participants on the course.

This approach is based on the four phases of narrative interviewing (see Table 4.1 below) in Jovchelovitch, Sandra; Bauer, Martin W. (2000). *Narrative interviewing* [online]. London: LSE Research Online. Available at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/2633> (and see course Power Point slides).

Although there are 4 Phases, we will concentrate on the middle two main phases for the purposes of the workshop task:

Phase 2: Main narration (20 minutes)

For these interviews, you are interested in learning more about the interviewee's experience of travelling to work before the lockdown (however you are also free to choose a different topic to interview them on if you wish). You should therefore start with the general request:

'Please tell me a story about your experience of [travelling to work before the Covid-19 lockdown was implemented].'

5 minute break: the interviewer should go through their notes and translate some into question form.

Phase 3: Questioning phase (15 minutes)

Using your notes from phase 2, probe for further information on key points of interest. You should translate your notes into questions using the language's own language, in order to complete any gaps in the study.

Discussion: Finally, spend 5 minutes at the end of the task discussing and noting down some lessons from this task to share with the other participants on the course.

The elicitation technique

Table 4.1 Basic phases of the narrative interview

Phases	Rules
Preparation	Exploring the field Formulating exmanent questions
1 Initiation	Formulating initial topic for narration Using visual aids
2 Main narration	No interruptions Only non-verbal encouragement to continue story-telling Wait for the coda
3 Questioning phase	Only 'What happend then?' No opinion and attitude questions No arguing on contradictions No why-questions Exmanent into immanent questions
4 Concluding talk	Stop recording Why-questions allowed Memory protocol immediately after interview