

## FEED BACK INTERVIEW 2

- Prep for the interview
- Ethical considerations (e.g. informed consent (see course page), anonymity, presentation of ‘the other’)
- Don’t be afraid to ask in if something interesting pops up and remember your theme
- Organizing an interview by themes or topics
- Write up / sum up - examples by quoting
- You could use time as indicator if you’re not transcribing everything - e.g. something you might consider unrelated to your research at the moment and add a short sentence to indicate what has been ‘cut out’ from the transcript (5.53 - 7.07 -> e.g. talk about having lunch)).
- Non verbal aspects can be noted during the interview
- Benefits / drawbacks using a tape recorder vs. note taking?

## CASE STUDIES

### WHAT IS A CASE STUDY?

\* A case study is a detailed inquiry into a single example (Flyvbjerg 2006)

\* Case studies focus on activities, functionings and local meaning within specific case(s) – a case should be defined in terms of it being a specific, unique, bound system. (Stake 2005)

### TYPES OF CASE STUDIES:

- Intrinsic
- Instrumental
- Multiple case or collective case approach (Ibid.)

### CASE STUDY RESEARCH:

\*Figure out what is important about the case within its own world: its own issues, contexts, and interpretations, its “thick description”<sup>1</sup>

\*Focus on the case and its activities and functioning + its contexts (social, cultural, economic, legal, political, historical)

\*What is going on? – What can be learned from the case?

\*Be reflective: think about what you encounter. Dig into meanings, relate them to contexts and experiences.

\*Seeking the particular rather than the ordinary

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<sup>1</sup> Clifford Geertz is one of the founding fathers of this notion by which is meant that ethnographic accounts should include contexts to fully capture and lay bare a case. For an article by Geertz see syllabus “Deep play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight”. This essay is a fundamental and famous piece + an exemplary case study. For further reading on Geertz and ‘thick description’ see e.g. Atkinson & Delamont (2005) + Hylland Eriksen (2006).

When probing the particular and common (but mostly the uncommon) of a case, take into account and gather data on:

1. The nature of the case, particularly its activity and functioning
2. Its historical background
3. Its physical setting
4. Other contexts, such as social, economic, political, legal and aesthetic
5. Other cases through which this case is recognized, and
6. Those informants through whom the case can be known (Ibid:447)

## METHODS OF CASE STUDIES

Interviewing

Observation

Document analysis

## SELECTING A CASE

- Chose a case from which you feel you can learn the most (the most accessible or the one where most time can be spend)
- Better to learn a lot from a atypical case than a little from a typical case
- *Setting*: where to study - you can choose a case on theoretical grounds, interest, learning
- *Research focus*: what do you want to follow (themes, issues, elements, process, and phenomena)?
- *Further generalizations*: develop further theoretical propositions  
(adopted from Silverman 2005)

Think about:

- a. Bounding the case, conceptualizing the objects of study
- b. Selecting phenomena, themes, issues (e.g. the research questions to emphasize)
- c. Seeking patters of data to develop issues
- d. Triangulating key observations and bases for interpretation
- e. Selecting alternatives to pursue, and
- f. Developing assertions or generalizations about the case (Stake 2007)

## Group work

- How would you select a case to study (what criteria would you follow)?
- Where would you gather empirical material if you set out to do a case study?
- How would you analyze your empirical material (what would you look for – what kind of questions would you ask when going over the material)?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Literature not listed on syllabus:

Atkinson, P. & Delamont, S. (2005): Analytical Perspectives. In Denzin & Lincoln (eds.): *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Sage Publications.

Silverman, D. (2005): *Doing Qualitative Research*. Sage.

Hylland Eriksen, T. (2006): *Hav er Socialantropologi*. Universitetsforlaget, Norge.