SOCIOLOGY 272F / LAW 209.41

QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWING

Spring 2012,

Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont

Professor Kristin Luker

Office: 2240 Piedmont

Office Hours: Friday, 2-4 om

(www.wejoinin.com/kluker@law.berkeley.edu)

Email: kluker@law.berkeley.edu

**Introduction:**

All of us interview each other all of the time, whether we know it or not: “how was the movie?” “did you like that new restaurant?” Interviewing within the social sciences, however, has a different set of goals and procedures that in some ways mimic--- and in other ways radically depart from---the kinds of informal interviews most of us conduct on a daily basis.

Interviewing in the social sciences has a long pedigree, and over the last century social scientists of all stripes have tried to formalize and operationalize the techniques and philosophies involved. In recent years, however, post-modernism has problematized much of the process of interviewing, with the interview increasingly being seen as a “discursive” “performance” produced by the interviewer and the interviewee working together in a particular historical and social context.

What does this mean for social scientists who wish to study social life as something other than “text?” How do we build theory in the face of post-modern critiques? What does postmodernism do to day-to-day interviewing?

This course examines these issues both as epistemological and practical concerns, and seeks to teach students how to conduct research interviews in a reflexive and rigorous way.

**Reading Assignments**

**WEEK 1**

**January 24 Qualitative Research: History, Theory and Objectives**

Alford, R. R. (1998) *The Craft Of Inquiry : Theories, Methods, Evidence*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Andrew Abbott. (2004) *Methods of Discovery: Heuristics for the Social Sciences*. New York: W.W. Norton. Chapters 3, 4.

Kathy Charmaz. (2006) *Constructing Grounded Theory : A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysi*s. London: Thousand Oaks, SAGE.

Becker, Howard S. (forthcoming) “The Epistemology of Qualitative Research in The Epistemology of Qualitative Research.” In Richard Jessor, Anne Colby, and Richard Schweder, eds., *Essays on Ethnography and Human Development*, University of Chicago Press.

Katz, Jack. (1997) “Ethnography's Warrants." *Sociological Methods & Research* 25: 391.

**WEEK 2**

**January 31** **Dilemmas of Qualitative Research Design, and What Counts as a “Contribution?”**

Thacher, David. (2006) "The Normative Case Study." *American Journal of Sociology* 111, No. 6: 1631.

National Science Foundation, Sociology Program. (2004) *Workshop on Scientific Foundations of Qualitative Research*. Washington, D.C. National Science Foundation.

Jeff Goodwin and Ruth Horowitz. (2002) “Introduction: The Methodological Strengths and Dilemmas of Qualitative Sociology.” *Qualitative Sociology* 25 (1): 33-47.

McCracken. *The Long Interview*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications., Section One

**WEEK 3**

**February 7 Ethics of Interviewing and the IRB**

Dvora Yanow. (2008) “Reforming Institutional Review Board Policy: Issues in Implementation and Field Research.” *Political Science and Politics* 41: 483-494.

Levine, Felice. (2008) “Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Aligning IRBs and Research Practice.” *Political Science and Politics* 41: 501-505.

Richard A. Leo. (1995) “Trial and Tribulations: Courts, Ethnography, and the Need for an Evidentiary Privilege for Academic Researchers. *The American Sociologist* 26 (1): 113-134.

Kai Erikson. (1995) “Commentary.” *The American Sociologist* 26 (2): 4-11.

Richard A Leo. (1996) “The Ethics of Deceptive Research Roles Reconsidered: A Response to Kai Erickson.” *The American Sociologist* 27 (1): 122-128.

Kai Erikson. (1996) “A Response to Richard Leo,” *The American Sociologist* 27 (1): 129-130.

Bauman, Z. (1989) Modernity and the Holocaust. Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press, Chapter 6, The Ethics of Obedience: Reading Milgram, pp. 152-168

Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association

**WEEK 4**

**February 14 Qualitative Research Design: Choosing a Question**

Burawoy, Michael. (1998) "The Extended Case Method." *Sociological Theory* 16 (1): 4-33.

Iddo Tavory and Stefan Timmermans. (2009) “Two Cases of Ethnography: Grounded Theory and the Extended Case Method.” *Ethnography* 10 (3): 243-263.

McCracken, G. D. (1988) *The Long Interview*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications. Section 2, pp. 11-28.

Susan Silbey. (2003) “Designing Qualitative Research Projects.” Memo prepared for the NSF

Katherine S. Newman. (2002) “Qualitative Research on the Frontlines of Controversy.” *Sociological Methods and Research* 31 (2): 123-130.

Anselm Strauss. (1987) *Qualitative Analysis for Social Sciences.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction, pp. 1-38.

Nina Eliasoph, Paul Lichterman. (1999) "We Begin with Our Favorite Theory...: Reconstructing the Extended Case Method.” *Sociological Theory* 17 (2): 228-234.

**February 21 Academic and Administrative Holiday; No Classes Meet.**

**WEEK 5**

**February 28 Qualitative Research Design: Ends and Means**

Mario Small. (2009) “How Many Cases Do I Need? On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field-Based Research.” *Ethnography* 10 (1): 5-38.\*

McCracken, G. D. (1988) *The Long Interview*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications. Section Three, pp. 29-47.

Katherine Newman. (2000) *No Shame in My Game; The Working Poor in the Inner City*. Preface, ix-xix and Chapter Four, “No Shame in (This) Game.” Pp. 86-121.

Loic Wacquant. (2002) “Scrutinizing the Street: Poverty, Morality, and the Pitfalls of Urban Ethnography.” *The American Journal of Sociology* 107 (6): 1468-1532.

**WEEK 6**

**March 7**  **Sampling, Operationalization, Generalization**

Robert S. Weiss. (1995) *Learning from Strangers*: *The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies.* Free Press. “Respondents: Choosing Them and Recruiting Them,” Ch. 2.

Michele Lamont. (2002) *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration.* Introduction, pp. 1-12 and Appendices A-C, pp. 251-268.

Full Access 4.

**WEEK 7**

**March 14 Choosing a Site, Designing an Instrument**

Herbert Clark and Michael Schober. (1992) “Asking Questions and Influencing Answers,” in *Questions about Questions: Inquiries into the Cognitive Bases of Surveys,* edited by Judith M. Tanor. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Joseph C. Hermanowicz. (2002) “The Great Interview: 25 Strategies for Studying People in Bed.” *Qualitative Sociology* 25 (4): 479-499.

Nina Eliasoph. (1999) “Everyday Racism in a Culture of Political Avoidance: Civil Society, Speech, and Taboo.” Social Problems 46 (4): 479-502.

**March 21-25 Spring Recess; No Classes Meet.**

**WEEK 8**

**March 28 Gaining Entrée**

Morrill, Calvin, David B. Buller, Mary Klein Buller, and Linda L. Larkey. (1999) “Toward an Organizational Perspective on Identifying and Managing Formal Gatekeepers.” *Qualitative Sociology* 22: 51-72.

Terry Arendell. (1997) “Reflections on the Researcher-Researched Relationship: A Woman Interviewing Men.” *Qualitative Sociology* 20 (3): 341-68.

Robert Peabody, et al. (1990) “Interviewing Political Elites.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23 (3): 451-455.

Harriet Zuckerman. (1972) “Interviewing an Ultra-Elite.” *The Public Opinion Quarterly* 36 (2): 159-175.

**WEEK** **9**

**April 4 Analyzing Interviews: Thematic Coding**

David A. Snow, Calvin Morill, and Leon Anderson. (2003) “Elaborating Analytic Ethnography: Linking Fieldwork and Theory.” *Ethnography* 4 (2): 181-200.

Auerbach, C. F. and L. B. Silverstein. (2003) *Qualitative Data: An Introduction to Coding and Analysis,* New York: New York University Press, pp. 31-53.

Anselm Strauss. (1987) “Codes and Coding,” in *Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 55-81.

Kathleen M. MacQueen. Codebook Development for Team-Based Qualitative Analysis**,** *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta.*

Cynthia Weston, et al. (2001) “Analyzing Interview Data: The Development and Evolution of a Coding System.” *Qualitative Sociology* 24 (3): 381-400.

**WEEK** **10**

**April 11 Analyzing Interviews: CAQDAS, Boolean Analysis and Other Tools**

Ann Lewins and Christina Silver. (2009) Choosing a CAQDAS Package, 6th ed.

Ragin, C. C. (1987) *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Preface and pp. 85-124.

James W. Carey. (1996)“Intercoder Agreement in Analysis of Responses to Open-Ended Interview Questions: Examples from Tuberculosis Research.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta.*

**WEEK 11**

**April 18 Quantitative and other Supporting Data: Building Theory**

Roth, W. and J. D. Mehta. (2002) "The Rashomon Effect: Combining Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches in the Analysis of Contested Events." *Sociological Methods & Research* 31(2): 131.

Bazeley, P. (2002) "Issues in Mixing Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Research," Presented at 1st International Conference - Qualitative Research in Marketing and Management, University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna.

**WEEK 12 (Pope Gregory make-up Day; Monday classes meet)**

**April 25 Trouble Shooting**

McCracken, G. D. (1988) *The Long Interview*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications, Section 4.

Briggs, C. L. (1986) *Learning How to Ask: A Sociolinguistic Appraisal of the Role of the Interview in Social Science Research*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter Three, pp.39-61.

**WEEK 13 (Pope Gregory make-up Day; Monday classes meet)**

**April 26 Writing**

Howard Becker. (1986) Book or Article, “Learning to Write as a Professional,” pp. 90-107 in *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish your Thesis*. University of Chicago Press. (This is a book that every social scientist should own!)

McCracken, G. D. (1988) *The Long Interview*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications, Section 5.

**WEEK 14**

**May 2 Writing and Publishing**

Laurel Richardson. (2005) "Writing: A Method of Inquiry," pp.959-978 in *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Third Edition, edited by Norman Denzin and Yvonna Lincoln. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage.

Wolcott, H. (2002) “Writing up Qualitative Research...Better.” *Qualitative Health Research* 12:91.

Susan Rabiner, and Alfred Fortunato, Thinking Like a Book Editor: Audience, Audience, Audience, Chronicle of Higher Education; 2/22/2002, Vol. 48 Issue 24, pB16.

Lindlof and Taylor (2002) “Authoring and writing,” In Lindlof and Taylor, *Qualitative Communication Research Methods*, 2nd ed., pp. 279-312.