

QUAL Series

What do you do with the data you've collected?

Logging and Focusing Data: Case of Participatory
Development in Morocco

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Presentation Plan

- Research background
- Mechanics of data organizing
- Interview Transcription
- Data focusing
- Coding
- Memoing

Qualitative Approach

- A Naturalistic Investigation: Direct apprehension of the social world
- Grounded theory approach (Glaser and Strauss, 1960): Theory is grounded and rooted in observation

Background on the research

- Theory
 - Deliberative and Participatory Democracy
 - Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil
 - Deliberative Authoritarianism (Warren and He, 2012)
- Research Question and Hypothesis
 - INDH
 - Conditions under which the PD processes empower citizens to make-decisions at the local level
 - H: You need local facilitators
 - Stakeholders: Intermediary **NGOs** (Development professionals), Local elected officials, Central State representatives, **Neighborhood Associations**, Citizens

Organizing all this Data...

- Data Logging: a central and ongoing feature of the qualitative research process.
- Not merely a *memory device* rather *logging record actually consist of data* that is available for systematic inspection
- Field-notes, interview write-ups, mapping, census taking, sound recording, filming, document collection

Create Tables of all Your Data

- Documents, photos, maps: type, name, what is this useful for?
- Interviewees, Observation, people you meet: type, name, position, date, phone number, email address

Type	Name	Position	Date	Place	Phone	Email
Interview	Warda Jardi	Association Femmes pionnières de Sidi Moumemen	8/28/2015	Casablanca	0679793908	
Interview	Zohra Rachiq	President, Association Femme Action Member of CLDH (Comite Local de Developpement Humain)	8/27/2015	Rabat	0661117501	
Interview	Yossef Ben-Meir	Founder and President, The High Atlas Foundation	6/1/2015	Skype, Marrakech		Skype Yossef Ben-Meir
Observation		Association de Sidi Moumeme	8/27/2015	Rabat		

The Mechanics of Data Logging

Five basic requirements in any form (Lofland & Lofland, 2006):

- 1) You must be able to log or record data promptly
 - 2) Data must be available for duplication
 - 3) Data must be available for coding
 - 4) Coding categories must be easily accessible for examination and analysis
 - 5) Data must be accessible for revised coding
- There is no uniform system, but there must be a *system*.

Writing up the Interview

- 1) Transcribe all the interviews yourself
- 2) If you must turn the transcription task to someone else then plan to review the transcript
- 3) Do not let the transcriptions not done by you pile up

The Written Record

- Summaries and notes of what the informant said in general
- Verbatim transcription of responses that seem important at the point of the write up
- Field notes of relevant extra interview encounters with the informant
- Personal emotional experiences
- Methodological difficulties or successes
- Ideas—tentative pieces of analysis (memos and codes)

Style

A Prior

- Why Am I interviewing this person?
- Your expectations
- What you think you are going to learn from the informant
- Good for 'aha' moments

Prior: Woman Association leader and member of the local commune

“I am hoping to talk to about her (and in general associations’) decision-making power in the framework of INDH. I have a vague picture of power hierarchies at this time. From my previous interviews, it seems that the local commune influences INDH decisions. I want to know more about that. Are INDH mechanisms in completing the work of local communes or do they work in parallel?”

I also do not have a clear idea of how different associations in a neighborhood cooperate/collaborate? Do they just advance their own agenda, fight for INDH money? From my previous interviews, it seems that there is little communication between different neighborhood associations.”

- My ‘Aha moment’? There is communication b/w associations, but not the way I had in mind

Style

- **Thick Description:** summaries and notes of what the informant said, did, objective description, requires adjectives that are non-opinionated
- **Immediate reflections:** thin analysis, interesting points, personal biases, emotions
- **Interpretation/analysis:** high insight,

Thick description	Immediate Reflections	Interpretation/Analysis
<p>-Tell me about your association work</p> <p>-the association works for the femmes foyer, in the activities for generating revenue for them</p> <p>INDH works in two different domains with women 1) femme de foyer (les activities generatrice de revenue) 2) women in difficult conditions like handicapped, or single moms</p>	<p>She is very friendly and enthusiastic</p> <p>She doesn't look like a rich politician</p>	<p>One thing that I have consistently noticed about neighborhood associations and their leaders that benefit from INDH finances is that they seem to come not from very elite class of Moroccan society.</p> <p>In contrast to the Feminist Movement and their NGOs.</p>
<p>-How the INDH has helped your association?</p> <p>-Materially, with money</p> <p>-What is your political party?</p> <p>l'authenticite et la modernite (PAM)</p> <p>She is an elected member of the commune: 2011, 2015 (running)</p>	<p>I am waiting for her say something more than money.</p> <p>Am I biased?</p>	<p>Money again. NGO cooptation argument</p>
<p>-what is the biggest impact of INDH for women</p> <p>-it encourages women to make decisions, and also insists that associations have women members, and that the president of the association be a woman</p>		<p>Gender hierarchies</p> <p>Women in leadership</p>
<p>-do politicians offer you money/ accept your proposals in exchange for votes?</p> <p>-No, we fight for getting them. It is not easy to get projects accepted, we get them with force</p>	<p>Implying that we fight for what we want and that we are strong women, nobody can buy our vote</p>	<p>I hear the word "militating" for what we want a lot. The word is also used in Latin American neighborhood participatory budgeting work (Brazil) (Book: Militants and Citizens: The Politics of Participatory Democracy in Porto Alegre)</p> <p>In my interviews with master minders of INDH, I hear that it is supposed to imitate Porto Alegre processes, not sure how much actual neighborhood associations know about this.</p>

Coding and Memoing

- Qualitative field analysis essentially begins with the activities of “coding” and “memoing.”
- The heart of the process of developing analysis
- Transcription and coding and memoing are conjoint activities

Focusing Data: Think Units and Aspects

- For more focused inquiry and understanding we need more refined ideas about social settings, ideas relating to their *units* of social organizational scale and to their substantive *aspects*.
- Combined units and aspects form the *topics* for analysis that enable us to make social scientific sense of our observations.

Units and Aspects Combine into Topics...

- Units: All social settings arise at the intersection of one or more *actors* engaging in one or more *activities* at a particular *time* in a specific *place*.
- Aspects: units' social content or substance, irrespective of their scale. Cognitions, emotions, and hierarchy.
- Units + Aspects → Topic (L&L, 2006)

Coding

- “process of defining what the data are all about” (Cahrmaz, 2001), by “relating those data to our ideas about them” (Coffey and Adkinson, 1996)
- *initial coding* and *focused coding*

Initial Coding

- Initial organization of your data into categories that make sense in terms of your relevant interests, literatures, perspectives, etc.
 - What is this? What does it represent? (Strauss and Corbin, 1990)
 - What is this example of? (Cuba, 1998)
 - What is going on? What are people doing? What is the person saying? What do these actions and events take for granted? How do the structure and context serve to support, maintain, impede, or change these actions and statements? (Charmaz, 2001)

Focused Coding

- Focused coding is “less open-ended and more selective and more conceptual” (Charmaz, 2001)
 - Of what topic, unit, or aspect is this an instance?
 - What question about a topic does this item of data suggest?
 - What sort of an answer to a question about a topic does this item of data suggest?

Thick Description	Immediate Reflections AND Initial Coding	Analysis/ Interpretation AND Focused Coding
<p>-what do you think about the feminist movement in Morocco? -the feminist movement has had good fruits from 1990-2002. Now many of the women who take part in elections, their political parties de-motivate them. Thus, they prefer to work at the associative level. The political parties take advantage of women, there is "feminine opportunism." It is therefore difficult to decide for people to vote for the party, or for the person. Sometimes, there are capable people in parties, but they have to play by party's rules, other times there are good parties, with incapable candidates. It makes it difficult to have influence.</p>	<p>She is one of those women who prefers associative work, rather than political work</p> <p>Overall, by "feminine opportunism," I think she means parties take advantage of accept women for reputation, and also some women hold office without having merits, with connections.</p>	<p>Although it is difficult to say that her associative work is a-political. She is also member of CLDH</p> <p>Definition of political?</p> <p>Women instrumentalization (Cornwall,2007)</p> <p>Civil Society Cooptation</p>

A changed Research Question

- Unit? Neighbor associations, Women association leaders
- Aspect? Hierarchy and meaning
- How gender comes into play hierarchically and cognitively in participatory development in Morocco?
- Not a linear process!!

Memoing

- Get in the habit of writing down your ideas about your various coding categories and their interconnections, and even about your procedures and fieldwork experiences.
- “the immediate step between coding and the first draft of your completed analysis” (Charmaz, 2001).

Types of memos

Strauss and Cobin (1990) suggest 3 types:

- Code memos: notes that clarify and elaborate the codes and the assumptions underlying them.
- Theoretical memos: theorizing write-ups of your ideas about your codes and their relationships as they strike you while coding.
- Operational/procedural memos: memos you write to yourself, including plans to do something, about emergent challenges and issues, etc.

Instrumentalizing women?

There are three types of women NGO leaders:

1) Associative work AND political work, 2)

Associative work only: (my argument: this work is political too) 3) the Feminist

Movement: advocacy, neither associative nor political work (skeptical of state involvement in civil society job). **My definition of political?**

I've met many women who have started associative work with INDH money, who before INDH did not participate much in neighborhood politics. **Is it just about the material (money)?** It seems that if you think of a novel project then you can get the money. I also hear a lot about INDH strict selection criteria, and the role of the elected commune in deciding which projects to finance. I've also met women who have started running for local election after starting associative work in their neighborhoods. I do not know the path to candidacy once you start the associative work. **Is there a correlation here?**

Leaders and Beneficiaries

I went to the field with this definition of participatory: actual neighborhood delegates/members decide in forums what they want for the neighborhood, there is communication and discussion (call it deliberation) among different neighborhood associations. What is happening in Morocco is different: associations (NGOs) run diagnostics and decide what is good for the neighborhood. NGOs are intermediaries between the public and elected commune officials. Each association has their own agenda. Sometimes they talk, but it is usually for a common goal, and not for discussing neighborhood projects (**I am still not certain about this**). Contrary to processes in Porto Alegre, however, (**women**) **NGO leaders have considerable decision-making power.**

Vignettes

- Somebody's biography that can explain something about your thesis.
- Putting together a picture of a person in the context, a story about that person, event, situation, etc.

Using a Qualitative Software?

- Search through the data, retrieve, recode, re-file faster
- enumerate coded items and relate them to one another in a more consistent and rapid form
- Allows faster search within and across categories and documents

Final Suggestions

- READ Method Books
 - Lofland, John, David Snow, Leon Anderson and Lyn H. Lofland. 2006. *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*. New York, NY: Wadsworth.
 - Creswell, John. 2012. *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (a general reference for projects from start to finish)
 - Emerson, Robert M. 2001. *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. (50% of this volume are insightful lessons from the field).
- Organize, Organize, Organize
- Be aware of Bias
- Be aware of your positionality
- Enjoy the Process!