CRISIS WHAT CRISIS: CAN QUALITATIVE DATA ARCHIVING ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY?

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Transparency in Qualitative Research

ESRC Research Methods Festival Bath – July 2018

TRANSPARENCY PRACTICALITIES AND POLITICS

- Reflecting on my experiences of depositing (or not) qualitative research data: practical tensions and challenges

- These are debated in sociological literature: 'sociologisation of the archive' (Geiger et al 2010)

- Archiving (on balance) a good thing, BUT *it cannot and should not be done in response to addressing the transparency crisis this could undermine trust, reinforce naïve empiricism and potentially undermine the intellectual foundations of qualitative research*.

DEPOSITING QUALITATIVE DATA: WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

- Open data a common resource and public good
- Publically funding and costs less that generating new data
- Avoid over researching
- Duty to participants – given their time
- Secondary analysis – historical sources (e.g. Johnson et al revisiting *The Last Refuge (*Townsend))
- Details on 'how to …' Corti, L. et al (2014) *Managing and Sharing Research Data: a Guide to Good Practice* – and website
- Credibility and accountability
- Reproducibility, reliability and replication –
- BUT resistance … Unsettling social science ..

'SOCIOLOGOLISATION OF THE ARCHIVE' (GEIGER ET AL 2010)

- … resistance or at least ambivalence …

- Hammersley, M. (1997) Qualitative data archiving: some reflections on its prospects and problems. *Sociology,* 31(1), 131-142.
- Mauthner, N. S., Parry, O., & Backett-Milburn, K. (1998) The data are out there, or are they? Implications for archiving and revisiting qualitative data. *Sociology*, 32(4), 733-745.
- Parry, O., & Mauthner, N. S. (2004) Whose data are they anyway? Practical, legal and ethical issues in archiving qualitative research data. *Sociology*, 38(1), 139-152.
- Moore, N. (2007). (Re) using qualitative data? *Sociological Research Online*, 12(3), 1-13.
- Geiger, T., Moore, N., & Savage, M. (2010). The archive in question. Manchester, National Centre for Research Methods

RESEARCHING THE RESEARCHERS

- Broom, A., Cheshire, L., & Emmison, M. (2009). Qualitative researchers' understandings of their practice and the implications for data archiving and sharing. *Sociology*, 43(6), 1163-1180.
    - 6 focus groups (37 researchers)
    - Range of perspectives that not only reflect the dilemmas of archiving but also '*go to the heart of what it means to 'do' qualitative research and how this could undermine, or be undermined, by new imperatives for data disposition and sharing*' (1176)

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AS 'ART' AND 'RELATIONSHIP' (BROOM ET AL 2009)

- **Reflexivity:** uniqueness of the observation, face to face interaction relationship is critical tool for analysis
- **Research diary:** personal thoughts, emotional responses, memories, worries, detail record of events as they unfold e.g. response of interviewee when you meet meet them)
- **Research in practice:** 'messy' (cf Law), uncertain, serendipitous, lines of investigation abandoned
- **Research documentation:** sanitized and 'cleaned' for wider readers (Hammersley 1997)

? Is this just professional posturing, defensiveness?
- *Hypothetical*

BEING A DOCTOR: SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF MEDICAL CLINICIANS IN THE NHS (SN6124)

- Aim: how day-to-day experiences and perspectives of doctors were influenced by cultural, political, socio-economic shifts in their working environment.

- Questions e.g.: What do doctors make of the changes in health care? Do contemporary developments affect how their work? How they feel about themselves? What are their clinical identities?

- Findings: detailed insights into how clinicians were reviewing their chosen careers in light of radical shifts in UK healthcare.

- Deposit and use: teaching medical students at Cardiff

RE-USE OF DATA

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Project nur	Project title	Project abstract	User ID	User count	User type	User discip	Download date	
35131	Designing Sociological research	I am looking at the data to assist in my assessment for our research module. I need to loo	128818	United King	Undergradu	Sociology	15/02/10	
35780	tel	use for tel testing which UKDA is involved with. For testing display of multimedia system u	132093	United King	Staff at inst	Library or C	17/11/09	
35780	tel	use for tel testing which UKDA is involved with. For testing display of multimedia system u	132093	United King	Staff at inst	Library or C	10/12/09	
38422	To estimate prevelance on IPV across NE eng	I am currently engaged in two projects for Government Office North East (contact name F	88537	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	06/05/09	
39808	doctor comparisons germany	Using data to prepare bid for funding to compare hospital doctors in UK and Germany in t	148354	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	06/06/09	
39808	doctor comparisons germany	Using data to prepare bid for funding to compare hospital doctors in UK and Germany in t	148354	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	09/06/09	
40668	Internet use amongst different groups	This study aims to assess how different groups use Internet technologies and how it affec	150927	United King	Postgradua	Business an	08/09/09	
41583	teaching qualitative analysis	I want to use a number of transcripts as a teaching tool to demonstrate approaches to qu	154231	Ireland	Staff at inst	Sociology	10/09/09	
43523	teaching MRes course	Students will be required to work with two of the transcripts. This will form an exercise in	160915	United King	Staff at inst	Psychology	15/12/09	
44646	research on teen agers' body modifications	I'm collecting data on teens' body modifications and body images in Uk in order to compa	164852	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	18/02/10	
44755	Why don't people use drugs?	If this data is suitable, I will use it for my post-graduate dissertation. I will be doing secon	165389	United King	Postgradua	Community	05/05/10	
45055	Studying qualitative data analysis	Data will be used for postgraduate qualitative data analysis using nvivo software and cove	153655	United King	Postgradua	Sociology	03/03/10	
45221	PVNets project privacy content analysis	Collecting qualitative interviews in different areas to perform a content analysis to see wh	166968	United King	Postgradua	Sociology	03/03/10	
45338	Background information	The qualitative interview transcripts will be used for background information in a project	167335	United King	Postgradua	Psychology	05/03/10	
45460	Comparative study of patient experience	I am a postgraduate student and this data is being accessed in order to practice qualitativ	167597	United King	Postgradua	Sociology	10/03/10	
47268	Teaching	I use this resource in a MA module I teach on qualitative analysis in School of Sociology U(	160474	Ireland	Staff at inst	Sociology	10/06/10	
48445	Test	Goldsmiths' course 'MDM.' This is a test in order to proceed with the course requirement:	174702	Germany	Undergradu	Sociology	05/10/10	
49004	MDM RESEARCH	Material for a course called Making Data Matter - in which we are comparing qualitative c	157579	United King	Undergradu	Sociology	07/10/10	
49004	MDM RESEARCH	Material for a course called Making Data Matter - in which we are comparing qualitative c	157579	United King	Undergradu	Sociology	04/10/11	
49006	Research project	The data will be used for a undergraduate research project in the final year of the option	176401	United King	Undergradu	Sociology	13/10/10	
49800	MSc Health Studies teaching aid	MSc Health Studies teaching aid. I intend to use one or two interview transcripts from the	125300	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	31/10/10	
52312	the role and function of the rural nurse in Au	i want to use this web material because our teacher recommend us to do so. she asked us	187588	United King	Postgradua	Nursing	26/03/11	
54443	Testing thematic guides	I am testing the collections I have chosen for the thematic guides. This is for the developn	128310	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	18/10/12	
54446	Testing thematic guides - health	I am testing the collections held in the qualidata thematic guides to see how easy they are	128310	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	23/05/11	
54446	Testing thematic guides - health	I am testing the collections held in the qualidata thematic guides to see how easy they are	128310	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	20/10/11	
54647	education (mine)	I am undertaking a professional doctorate and need this data for my statistiacal analysis n	192739	United King	Postgradua	Nursing	12/07/11	
54945	Teaching research methods	I would like to use this data in my teaching at a summer school in qualitative research me	193577	United King	Staff at inst	Education	18/06/11	
55407	Personal exploration	I am interested in getting to know more about secondary analysis, therefore I would like t	194485	Hungary	Staff at inst	Politics and	19/07/11	
56718	Module assignment	I am the graduate teaching assistant for module HS305, which uses this article for an assig	135587	United King	Postgradua	Sociology	18/10/11	
56727	Teaching medical sociology	I am going to use this data to hep students in a learning environment to develop a useful :	198727	United King	Staff at inst	Sociology	18/10/11	
56789	Undergraduate assigment.	"I would like to access the data collections held by Qualidata for the purposes of my own	199090	United King	Undergradu	Other Studi	20/10/11	
56789	Undergraduate assigment.	"I would like to access the data collections held by Qualidata for the purposes of my own	199090	United King	Undergradu	Other Studi	04/11/11	
56789	Undergraduate assigment.	"I would like to access the data collections held by Qualidata for the purposes of my own	199090	United King	Undergradu	Other Studi	08/11/11	
56790	Undergraduate Assignment	"I would like to access the data collections held by Qualidata for the purposes of my owr	199088	United King	Undergradu	Other Studi	20/10/11	

WHAT KEEPS ME AWAKE?

- NHS & R&D ethical approvals

- Informed consent – participant information sheets about the study, informed consent forms etc
  - Perfunctory – dismissive approach to completion

- Confidentiality - anonymisation – guidance available yet what if I let something slip through? How much context to leave in?
  - Unique stories of e.g. women doctors describing experiences of sexism and discrimination to a women interviewer (not many women surgeons in the England!)

OWNERSHIP OF DATA

- 'Interviews, [...] are the intellectual property of the interviewer and interviewee, creat complex issues around allowing wider access to data. Data are thus an *emotional contract of trust*' (Broom et al 2009: 1166 *my emphasis*)

FALLACY OF 'RAW' DATA

- Data generated co-produced, co-constructed, embedded in and by contexts and the conditions of production are inextricably interlinked with process of analysis and interpretation (reflexivity)

  - Relationship – unique private space, confessional, vulnerability, trust … ?

  - Recall Oakley, Finch – interviewing women – power relations – interviewer discloses aspects of own life

  - 'Data' where it is bound up with moral exchanges can lead the researcher to feel responsible and depositing data online for public scrutiny and can be uncomfortable
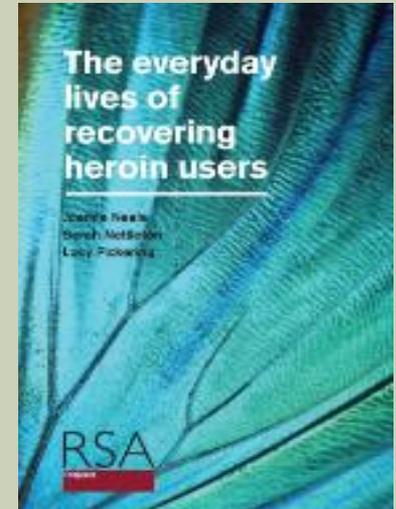
RAW DATA CAN FEEL VERY RAW

- Undiagnosed illness – sharing private thoughts "never told anyone even my close family" frustrations with partners, significant others. Gifts at the end of interview – appreciative listening

- Drug users in recovery – ESRC waiver on depositing these data but who/how do we adjudicate on a hierarchy of vulnerability ?

A SOCIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF RECOVERING HEROIN USERS
ESRC: RES-062-23-1016

- 'The Everyday Lives of Recovering Heroin Users', Royal Society of Arts in London and inspired workshops for service users and service providers in Kent to encourage talk about their own everyday experiences of recovery. '*What's your story*?' - recovery stories (using words, poetry, pictures etc) to be displayed at a series of venues.

Nettleton, S., Neale, J. and Pickering, L (2011)."I don't think there's much of a rational mind in a drug addict when they are in the thick of it": towards an embodied analysis of recovering heroin users *Sociology of Health & Illness* 33 (3) 341–355, 2011

THE PRACTICALITIES OF ANONYMISATION

- Resource!! Cost, time – who?

- Names, location, unique events – but how much detail and context.

- And it costs! (but an easy way to shave budget when submitting applications) – 1000s of pages of transcripts and even more challenging field notes

BUILDINGS IN THE MAKING: A SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

- Anonymising the interview transcripts a challenge but the field notes... of e.g. meetings DRM, DTM, site visits ...

- Study of architects working care homes struggling to know what to leave in and leave out –

- Design and access statements, planning applications in the public domain – so difficult to anonymise. Mugs!!

FROM ARCHIVING TO OPEN ACCESS

- Public Library of Science (PLOS) authors make data available via links to official archives (see Tsai et al 2016)

- BUT **pragmatic** implications for publishing *during* a research project when data not yet "cleaned" for sharing

- Brings us back to epistemological and political questions: reinforces "reproducibility" that readers can check the validity of the analysis

Tsai, A. C., Kohrt, B. A., Matthews, L. T., Betancourt, T. S., Lee, J. K., Papachristos, A. V., ... & Dworkin, S. L. (2016). Promises and pitfalls of data sharing in qualitative research. *Social Science & Medicine*, 169, 191-198.

PROCESS: E.G. RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRAGMATICS DATA SHARING (TSAI 2016)

1. Statement from authors to editors on consent for public access
2. Adherence to minimum (USA)standards de-identification
3. Authors should use publish data from multiple informants
4. Permit coding queries to be shared
5. Encourage anonymisation of field notes
6. Encourage authors to document social audits and stakeholder dissemination
7. Encourage manuscript reviewer with expertise in qualitative research to comment on anonymisation
8. Establish petitioning process for non disclosure

TROUBLING EPISTEMOLOGIES: ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT

- Archived data can't 'validate' findings – but 'likely validity of arguments presented by the data', assess 'plausibility' there are 'no set of empirical givens which can establish the validity of a claim *beyond all possible doubt'* (Hammersley 1997: 133).

- Status of data - multiple interpretations

- *Epistemological foundationalism* – 'rests on the idea there is a strict ontological distinction between an external objective material world and an internal subjective human' world' (Mauthner & Parry 2009: 294)

TRANSPARENCY – THE DARK SIDE.

- *Archiving data - cannot and should not be done in response to addressing the transparency crisis*
  - Reinforces misconceptions of qualitative research
  - Hegemony epistemological foundationalism
  - Sanitization of research process
  - Undermines trust in expert systems – and professionalism

TRANSPARENCY – AN ENLIGHTENED PROJECT?

- Making the invisible visible – through openness – audit, accountability, quality assurance, checking, assessing, verification an Enlightenment project

- *That more knowledge could cause problems, that light could prove another tyranny …, were not thoughts the philosophers of the Enlightenment were prepared to entertain* (Tsoukas 1997: 839)

Tsoukas, H. (1997) The tyranny of light: The temptations and the paradoxes of the information society. *Futures,* 29(9), 827-843.

CONCLUSION

- We have an obligation to funders, study participants, the discipline to archive and deposit data

- Qualitative research flexible and 'messy' (Law 2004)) so the processes of archiving needs to be rigorous and yet sufficiently nuanced to allow for this.

- Depositing data needs to be resourced!!

- Re-use is not the same as reproducibility and replicabilty - and transparency and speak to contrasting political agendas.