

# Teaching resource: Psychosocial approaches

Familiarise both instructors and students with psychosocial methods



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## Introduction

This resource showcases two archived collections which have used a psychosocial method: Hollway and Jefferson's Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime and Hollway's Becoming a Mother.

The resource includes a range of activities that can be used in the classroom or as self-paced learning activities.

The aim of the resource is to familiarise both instructors and students with psychosocial methods and show how other researchers have used these approaches empirically and theoretically in their research projects.

## Reuse and the psychosocial

Since psychosocial approaches are primarily concerned with the psychodynamics evoked through an inter-subjective encounter it may be interesting to consider whether secondary sources - such as archived data collections - are of use to psychosocial researchers.

There are two ways in which data can be reused in psychosocial studies.

Firstly, in perhaps its simplest form, researchers can use collections which have applied these approaches to inform their own methodological approach. They could look through the methodological guidance, interview schedules and resulting data transcripts to see how data was produced and interpreted.

The second way is through reanalysis. Reanalysis can be carried out on data which originates from a psychosocial study such as those featured in this resource, or it can be carried out on data which was not collected with a psychosocial purpose in mind.

The psychosocial researcher may analyse why a respondent constructs their narrative in a particular way. Why are they telling that story and in that way? The researcher would also be self-reflexive and consider the emotional responses they have to the data.

The researcher may also look things such as inconsistencies, false starts, and corrections which might also offer important cues to unconscious processes.

## Examples of psychosocial research with archived data

As part of his research into World War One, social historian Professor Michael Roper from the University of Essex used a psychosocial approach to analyse a large collection of letters written by young male soldiers to their mothers back at home.

His work is published as *The Secret Battle. Emotional Survival in the Great War* (2009).

The letters, archived at the Imperial War Museum, were used to analyse the way in which these young soldiers coped with not only the physical conflict on the front line, but also the psychical conflict that they were dealing with in their inner worlds. He looked at the way in which soldiers phrased their letters in order to neutralise some of the horrors of their war experiences.

Roper also looked at the parts of the letters that were 'corrected' by the letter's author. He considered why those 'mistakes' were made, what replaced that error, and how these alterations gave clues as to the unconscious, psychological motivations of the soldier.

At face value these letters appeared to be simply letters between a son and his mother during the war, but Roper recontextualised and reconstructed their context with a new psychosocial focus, and offered a new insight into the psychological struggles of the soldiers at the front line.

## Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime

Hollway, W. and Jefferson, T., [\*Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime\*](#), 1995. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], October 2003. SN: 4581.

The aims and methods, objectives and methodology section which follow are taken directly from the [user guide for this collection](#).

## Aims and methods of the project

The research project arose out of three topical themes. First, the high-profile issues of fear of crime and its relation to risk of victimisation produced a polarisation of the criminological literature attempting to understand British Crime Survey results which found a 'fear-risk paradox', namely that high-risk groups, in particular young men, reported lower fear than low-risk groups, in particular older women. Second, the original prospectus for the Crime and Social Order Programme sought to situate the recent fear of crime 'wave' within broader sociological theories of late - or post-modernity which emphasise new insecurities using multidisciplinary insights. Third, the 'fear-risk paradox' provided a salient example of the importance of gender-based differences.

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We hypothesised that anxiety - a central concept in the theoretical edifice of psychoanalysis - would be a mediating influence in the relationship between risk (or victimisation) and fear of crime. Recent theoretical developments using psychoanalytic concepts have advanced understanding of gendered identities and gender relations, as well as late-modern insecurities. This hypothesis therefore also promised significant wider theoretical innovation (a promise we now think has been borne out).

In psychoanalytic theory, anxiety precipitates defences against the threats that it poses to the self, such that ideas and feelings which arouse anxiety are lost to conscious thought. This proposition has profound implications for method. We aimed to develop an appropriate interview method (which at the beginning we called 'quasi-clinical'). Our development of the 'narrative interview method' is probably the most important outcome of this project, because of its widespread implications for social science research.

## Objectives

1. To critique the 'fear of crime' literature and to retheorise 'fear of crime' in the light of psychodynamic understandings of anxiety and post-structuralist notions of gender difference.
2. To integrate psychodynamic approaches to subjectivity into sociological perspectives on contemporary social changes, especially as these relate to questions concerning fear of crime.
3. To develop interview methods and theoretical methodology consistent with a psychodynamic understanding of individuals.
4. To explore the paradox of the apparent low level of fear in high risk groups, for example, young black males, through developing an understanding of the relationship between masculinity and anxiety.
5. To explain difference in fear of crime among different social groups in ways which reduce neither to levels of risk, to rational, calculating individuals, nor to an array of social determinants.

## Psychosocial Research Methodology

### The interviews

The first interview consisted of seven questions, each designed to elicit narrative answers, rather than explanations or descriptions. Questions followed the tripartite structure of criminal victimization/fear of crime; risk/safety; anxiety/worry. They began with factual issues (history of criminal victimisation) and ended with a neutral question relating to their arrival on the estate (to pick up any contrast effects with where they'd moved from). This order was designed to 'top and tail' the interview with the most emotionally neutral subject matters.

We conducted a second interview, one week later, based on follow-up questions resulting from listening symptomatically to the first interview on audiotape in order to identify areas where anxiety was obtruding in the account; for example, through hesitations, avoidances, changes of tack, changes in emotional tone or contradictions. During the first interview, information was being received at many levels and the interviewer was managing the usual issues of attention, rapport and holding on to all important information for follow-up. It was therefore extremely useful to listen to the interview outside the face-to-face setting, with an ear focused on another level of meaning through these symptoms of anxiety. We strengthened this procedure further by both listening to each first interview tape, so that, as well as the 'insider' insights (from the researcher who conducted the interview), an 'outsider' insight was also provided, and contributed to devising the narrative questions for the second interview. A further benefit of a second interview was, we found, that the relationship was no longer a stranger one, because, on the second meeting, so much had passed between interviewer and interviewee that a certain familiarity, even intimacy, had developed.

As part of the second interview, following the questions that were devised to follow up symptomatic issues from interview one, a standard set of questions was asked to each interviewee in order to ensure comparability of information across respondents, which cannot be guaranteed using only a narrative interview format. These were derived from the pilot schedule.

Immediately after the first doorstep meeting and after both interviews, the researchers made notes of their impressions. As well as the usual observations, we recorded what clinical psychoanalysts call the 'countertransference'; that is the researcher's emotional responses to the interviewee and their story. The purpose of this is to provide further information about unconscious communications. For example, one man's interviews revolved around the story of a major injustice at work. The interviewer's powerful emotions of anger pointed to the significance of the interviewee's lack of emotion. However, this aspect was not strongly developed and we hope to work on it more systematically in subsequent work.

## Interview schedules

The following PDFs are of the pilot interview schedule and the final schedules used.

[Pilot interview schedule](#)

[Final interview schedule one](#)

[Final interview schedule two](#)

## Extract one – Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime

Interviewee: Ron (Int63)

Extract from 1st interview.

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Extract from page 1 to 8 of 37 in original interview transcript.

**TJ** OK. Em, first questions. Can you tell me Ron about how crime has affected your life, or impacted on your life since you've been living here?

**Ron** Er. (pause). Way it's got me like most of what I've got. Do you know what I mean?

**TJ** No.

**Ron** Well that's what there is in't there? Like round 'ere. Crime and that.

**TJ** That's all there is around here?

**Ron** Well, aye, everybody you know is up to summat.

**TJ** Yeah?

**Ron** You know what I mean? Everybody's got summat going.

**TJ** Yeah. Well can you take me through the story of your involvement then? Starting when you started.

**Ron** (pause). Can't think when it started.

**TJ** you've been here since you were about 7?

**Ron** Mmm.

**TJ** Start from when you arrived.

**Ron** I don't know. What it were like, when we were kids, (cough). I used to be right adventurous, know what I mean? 'cos I didn't when I stayed up, just used to go - walks, miles and that. Like middle of sticks and that.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** I don't know. I used to take keys and all.

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**Ron** Yeah, knock about wi' an older kid. And like if we found a or summat we'd just like 'ave to 'ave a look in it, know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Right inquisitive. Even if there were nowt there, just 'ave a look round. Just to see.

**TJ** Is this a house you say.

**Ron** Not cars. Not into cars or owt. Just used to, don't know. Like once. We once went for a walk when I were young er, I found this barn. Middle of nowhere. Middle of these trees and that.

**TJ** Found a what? - sorry.

**Ron** A barn.

**TJ** Right.

**Ron** Full of er, 'ad all labels and that on saying toxic f..... poisonous and don't enter and all this lot.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** But, I just 'ad to go in and 'ave a look.

**TJ** Yeah? And you were - what? Seven, eight, nine?

**Ron** Na, not that young. I don't think I really started doing owt till I were about 11.

**TJ** Right. So you were very inquisitive and you found lots of keys. And you were knocking around with an older guy?

**Ron** Well not when I just found lots of keys. I just - we just used to get in things - if keys were there, we used to collect 'em.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** 'aven't a clue why. Birds eggs, owt. Do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Used to - used to get us out. Like an excuse - go places I reckon.

**TJ** OK. And you were very inquisitive?

**Ron** Mmm.

**TJ** And then what?

**Ron** (pause). I don't know. Like, I don't know. Just, just, it's somebody to knock about wi' in it? I suppose. From being at school and that. Like since I moved up 'ere, never known nowt different, know what I mean?

**TJ** Mmm.

**Ron** Like, (pause) people are always up to summat round 'ere. There's always summat going off like.

**TJ** Um hum. So what's the first thing you can remember doing?

**Ron** First thing I can remember burgling or?

**TJ** Well, whatever?

**Ron** When I, when I were about 6, 7.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Ron** Er, I lived on, up thingy. And I were a bit of a - one for fights - do you know what I mean? I 'ad a bit of attitude problem when I were that age. Like this kid {local child}, sister, so I 'it 'im wi' an 'ouse brick oer 'ead.

**TJ** When you were 6?

**Ron** Split all 'is 'ead open, yeah.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** (laugh). Running down to me nan nan - (cough) and she were right strict me nan nan and that. So - like you just didn't do nowt wrong in front of 'er, do you know what I mean. 'cos she'd - just 'it ya. Frightened to death me mother and all that lot.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** And er, she were right fiery woman like. So I just went in 'ouse and said like "oh I've been 'ere, nan nan" and all this lot. She must 'ave known summat were up. She going "ah, yeah" and all this, all time. Next minute, she's trying to work out what were up wi' me. Knock on door "oh, 'e's knocked our {local child}out with this 'ouse brick" (laughing). She just stood there on door, saying "'e's been in 'ouse all this time" and all this. First thing I can remember doing I think.

**TJ** What - what was that about? You said you had a bit of an attitude problem?

**Ron** I thought I ran street when I were 6.

**TJ** You thought?

**Ron** I thought I ran street.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Even though kids like. But then when I moved up 'ere - when I moved, I think what it were well I didn't think it at time, but it probably was summat to do wi' - 'cos like me mother and father split up then, do you know what I mean? I just - just did things just for f..... I don't know. 'cos I thought like, it didn't matter. Do you know what I mean? Could get away wi' doing things like that.

**TJ** Because they were splitting up?

**Ron** Mmm.

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**TJ** So they wouldn't do anything to you, .....

**Ron** Oh, I don't know - I can't remember right, know what I mean? Right pain probably. Like it were just - just a bit of coincidence, it were like same time, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Mmm.

**Ron** I moved up 'ere, and like - I can remember like being in gangs at {place}. Fighting and that. Used to go out.

**TJ** Being in gangs?

**Ron** Then, then it just - you know like as you've grown up, just 'aven't bothered me to fight, do you know what I mean? It's ...

(Interruption - somebody shouting Ron).

**Ron** What?

(Interruption - what time you going to sign on?).

**TJ** OK. Sorry you were saying about gangs at {place}. Em, you were fighting.

**Ron** Um.

**TJ** How old were you then? Talking about ...

**Ron** I don't know. That were when we just moved up 'ere, that. Seven or eight or summat.

**TJ** Um hum. And you were in gangs

**Ron** It was all like, I don't know. There were some kids like, who - who I got in wi' straight away and there were others (pause) who - knows what I mean? 'ad me own little thing going like. Just used to fight wi' them. But it were like two schools an altogether, so that didn't 'elp. Like {place} were {name}. But {name} school. {place} an all. Used to fight wi' them.

**TJ** Yeah. This is a primary school?

**Ron** Mmm. I'd just moved.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Like somebody – somebody, I don't know, I just used. Every so often I'd just flip. You know what I mean? I'd 'old everything back, then just flip. Summat once 'appened. I went up to school wi' a pair of scissors, trying to stab this kid. I didn't I'd got 'em or owt. I was - do you know what I mean? I were only about 7 then.

**TJ** You said you had a knife?

**Ron** Well it were 'alf a pair of scissors.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Bust 'em in 'alf.

**TJ** When you say you just flipped, can you remember any more about what was going on then?

**Ron** I can't remember even what it were about. I think it might 'ave been like f.... I don't know if I were picked on, wi' me just going to school or what. But I just thought, like no more like. Can't remember what it were. 'e must 'ave done summat, lad anyway.

**TJ** Right. OK. Let's move forward again to what other things you can remember. We've talked about the house brick, talked about the gangs. Em, what next?

**Ron** Think first burglary I got done for were on front of 'ere.

**TJ** Yeah?

**Ron** Yeah. I were only young then. Like, it were just like a game, you know to do things like that? I got like - I'd got a balaclava on and everything, me. Thought it were big time and everything. Burgling this council - got on roof. I did it, like it were just fun and tha', knows what I mean? Just being able to do it. 'Cos it were locked up right secure and everything and it were tin and everything, and what I done - got on roof, cut an 'ole this, used tin snips or summat,

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pliers, and I cut a big square going through like this leaded roof. Like, just didn't think anybody 'ad seen us, but like, people looked out of bedroom windows, they could see us on roof. Like police, said they were gonna send dogs in and that. We 'id in cupboard.

**TJ** And what then?

**Ron** I don't know, like a bit scary, but (pause) I don't know, nowt bothers ya when you're young does it?

**TJ** How old were you?

**Ron** About 11 then I think.

**TJ** And where was it did you say?

**Ron** Just outside 'ere.

**TJ** Just outside here?

**Ron** Yeah.

**TJ** One of these houses opposite?

**Ron** It were on car park.

**TJ** On car park?

**Ron** Yeah, it weren't a 'ouse burglary, it were just a council 'ut.

**TJ** Just a hut?

**Ron** Like, what it were, they were re doing 'ouses round 'ere.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Ron** And like, I'd already got a good collection of keys then. And like, I'd got into me 'ead that they kept all spare keys for 'ouses in this 'ut.

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**TJ** Mmm. So that's what you were after was it?

**Ron** Yeah.

**TJ** Yeah. What time of the day was this?

**Ron** It were at night, about 11 o'clock or summat.

**TJ** Right. Eleven o'clock at night.

**Ron** Mmm.

**TJ** So you're out quite late, for an 11 year old?

**Ron** Oh yeah. I just sneak out, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** I've been down washing line and everything.

**TJ** Yeah. And - the balaclava? Where did that come from?

**Ron** Don't know. (cough). 'aven't got a clue. Kid who I were doing wi' 'ad one on an all.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** All dressed in black. Like in black tracksuits on and that.

**TJ** And the kid you were doing it with - whose idea was it? Yours or his? How did you decide to do it?

**Ron** Don't know. Kid who I were doing it wi' - 'e - what kid who I used to keys wi' and that, and so.

**TJ** Yeah.

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**Ron** Go out wi'. And 'e like, but 'e were a couple of years older and that - and like I looked up to 'im, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** We just used to (pause) just used to walk miles and that. Do daft things.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Well that mightn't not 'ave even been first burglary, but that were firsten I got done for, 'cos I did one at {place} and it were an old wood yard and like, that were curiosity took oer there, do you know what I mean? I were just walking round and that, and like I were into everything. You know what I mean? I'd 'ave gone in loft just to see if anybody 'ad left owt or summat.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** We got into this old - we got through this little window at back, after we'd gone through everything else.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** And it took us into this office. I think this were first time I - it dawned on me that it were more than a bit of fun, do you know what I mean? 'cos we got into this office, it were a safe there and everything. Undid safe, nowt found a right load of old church keys and all that, so they were first to go. Daft bits of tools, and then got this screwdriver in this drawer, prized it open, and there were like a cash drawer, and there were like £40 in it. And like we shared it out and everything, and I got all sorts for my 'alf, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** You got all sorts of what?

**Ron** Well I just bought all daft things, 'cos I'd never 'ad money like, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** I couldn't - like I thought I were rich or summat.

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**TJ** Yeah. How old were you then?

**Ron** (blow out) ten or 11, summat.

**TJ** Ten or 11. So this was before the one you've just mentioned you got caught for?

**Ron** Yeah, or similar time. But I was still - way it were when I were knocking about wi' 'im.

**TJ** He's older than you?

**Ron** Mmm.

**TJ** How much older?

**Ron** Couple of years.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Not that much older. 'e's just been in na. First time 'e's been for ages.

**TJ** OK. So that's out at {place}, how did you get out to {place}?

**Ron** Bus.

**TJ** Right.

**Ron** That's what - that's what I mean, we just used to get on a bus and just go middle of nowhere and just walk.

**TJ** Right.

**Ron** Find things, do you know - 'ad some right experiences like. Just being out.

**TJ** So it's - are you going on the bus in order to find interesting possibilities like this, or are you going on a bus just to get out of here - then, you start wondering, find ...

(voice in background).

**Ron** I don't know. (talking to voice in background - "alright"). Don't know just used to go out. Like get on a bus, just get off and think, I must 'ave walked from {place} t' in middle of sticks, 'undreds of times. Like every weekend or summat. Saturday, Sunday. {place} - we walk oer there.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Ron** Think miles, done some right miles.

**TJ** And so curiosity ...

**Ron** I started on - I started, once started on {place}an all at one bit. When I - {place}.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Like, only kids then.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Bugged off. Do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** But we found - just before it gets to {place} there's like a little village there, we ended up in all barns, and all that.

**TJ** Yeah. So when you see something like an old barn or an old house, or - did it have to be unoccupied, or would you go in an occupied house?

**Ron** No, never went in occupied 'ouses it weren't just - it were just, if I saw summat I 'ad to examine it, do you know what I mean? Like I climbed trees and that, and put me 'ands in 'oles and things like that.

**TJ** Yeah.

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**Ron** See if there were owt in 'em, or owt.

**TJ** Yeah. I see. So when you found this boarded house, to go back to that occasion when you thought you were rich, what other feelings did you have? You know, you found this £40?

**Ron** Like as soon as I seen money I knew what it were, do you know what I mean? I'd seen money before.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** Just wanted to get out.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** See, like it 'it me then, do you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah. You wanted to get out. You wanted to get out with it? Or did you want to get out?

**Ron** Oh, I wanted to take it, aye. But I just thought, like what's use 'anging about, do you know what I mean. We've got summat na, just want to - I'm not gonna get caught wi' it na.

**TJ** Yeah. And you didn't on that occasion?

**Ron** No.

**TJ** OK. We'll come back to this - this moment when you did get caught. Em, tell me what happened. You said the police said "come out."

**Ron** Well then couldn't get in. We could 'ear 'em on radio.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Ron** And thinking, we're gonna 'ave to wait for and all this lot. So it 'ad it be - 'ad to be bloke who'd gonna let 'em in 'ut, do you know what I mean? 'cos they didn't know - I don't know if they knew 'ow we'd got in. But they weren't climbing on roof, do you know what I mean. We could 'ave been anybody, as far as they're concerned. Do you know what I mean? We could

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'ave been a pair of blokes or owt. So we 'id in cupboard and that. They're going "come out" and all this. Eventually like we just agreed to come out.

**Ron** I can't remember. I went to court I think for it.

**TJ** Did you?

**Ron** Well conditional discharge or summat stupid.

**TJ** Mmm. What - what happened to you then? I mean how did you feel having been caught?

**Ron** It didn't bother me. Nowt like that bothered me. Do you know what I mean?

**TJ** It didn't bother you?

**Ron** No.

**TJ** Did it bother your parents?

**Ron** Well, like, no. Well I, I think it did - it didn't bother (pause). It didn't bother me mother I don't think. But I always 'ad like - she were going wi' this - way she's going wi' 'im na like. 'er boyfriend so. But I didn't right get on wi' 'im, so. (pause). Can't remember. Can't remember what 'appened.

## Extract two – Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime

Interviewee: Tommy (Int67)

Extract from 1st interview.

Extract from page 30 to 35 of 35 in original interview transcript.

**TJ** So you started there by talking about the two times in your life when you've been ill and that made you anxious. Er, has there been any other times when you've felt anxious about anything? Or is it just about health?

**Tommy** Well actually I were frightened when I lost me dad.

**TJ** Yeah?

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**Tommy** Yeah. Only one in family who were frightened, 'cos we 'ad 'im at 'ome.

**TJ** Yeah. Tell me about it.

**Tommy** Well he worked all 'is life, me dad. Never got - and 'e was 65 and not even got 'is bus pass. And it really 'urt me that. That er, 'e died in pain in 'ospital as well. They fetched 'im 'im home. Fetched 'im over, put 'im at side of wall and they took lid off. You know what I mean? Me dad were laid there and everybody, when we come down next morning, oh I couldn't go to sleep that night thinking about it. And everybody come down stairs, 'oh God bless', all mourners, everybody came - 'cos 'e were well loved me dad. They loved me dad on estate. And everybody kissed 'im bar me because I were frightened. Eventually we cremated 'im and I went back to work week after and I broke down at work. Because I didn't do what I should have done. I broke down at work, they fetched me 'ome from work and I were off work 3 week.

**TJ** 3 weeks?

**Tommy** I broke down, aye. I went to bed one night and I'll never forget it happened. Me mam will probably tell ya as well, when you go and see 'er. Went to bed one night, summat woke me up. I woke up and I looked at bottom end of bed. Me dad were there. Me dad turned round "don't worry about it, I still love ya." Just disappeared. Got up next morning, I told me mother. "Oh you 'aven't 'ave ya?" I said "aye" I says he says he loved me and told me not to worry about it, because I didn't kiss 'im. I wish I 'ad 'ave done na. 'cos it's 20 year na since we lost 'im. 1974.

**TJ** Mmm, you were about 18?

**Tommy** Mmm. I wish I'd 'ave done it na.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Tommy** They made me a member at {place} club on me 18th birthday.

**TJ** You say you're the only one in the family that felt quite like that about it.

**Tommy** Yeah.

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**TJ** Where do you come in the family? Are you...

**Tommy** Er, got a sister, sister, brother, brother, me and me twin, twin, twin, sister, brother.

**TJ** Somewhere in the middle?

**Tommy** One, two, three, four. Fourth.

**TJ** And.

**Tommy** Only lives at {place}. We never meet. And it is a big family. Me grandma's still living. Me grandma's 96. She's - she lives on {place} flats. Unfortunately she's in hospital na, getting bed rest, because of 'er age. But we never seem to meet. Always every time we meet there's always a big argument. You know what I mean? You get these families - all these families what 'aven't seen each other. It's like a reunion.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** Let's all meet again and 'ave a good laugh.

**TJ** Yeah. You're not like that.

**Tommy** Our families not like that. I've never known it. And I'm 42 year old. Never 'appened to me while I've been 'ere. (laugh).

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah.

**Tommy** And I think it should be, if your parents - me mother's 'ad all these kids, should all be together.

**TJ** Yeah. Can I just go back over something?

**Tommy** Yeah.

**TJ** Em. I had you in my head as about 38. I don't know why, because when we were talking about what age you would have been when your father died, or what age you were when ...

**Tommy** Oh, '74.

**TJ** '74, '75 it would make you more than that.

**Tommy** '74, '69, '69, 18. I were 18 in '69.

**TJ** That's right. You would be in the 20's wouldn't you?

**Tommy** Twenty, twenty two, twenty three.

**TJ** Yeah, yeah. It doesn't make that much difference, but it just struck me that I was ...

**Tommy** Yeah, twenty two, twenty three yeah.

**TJ** And the same when er, you talked about ...

**Tommy** Oh, you've got date of me dad. I never - only one that never kissed 'im.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** But I've remembered 'im.

**TJ** Are you close together in age?

**Tommy** Yes, er, 5 year gap.

**TJ** Five year gap - what between ...

**Tommy** Sister's 45, sister's 46, brother's 45, one's 44 and 42.

**TJ** Mmm. Quite close really.

**Tommy** Quite close, yeah, ever so close. But like scattered all oer. Me twin brother lives at {place}. Sister lives in another northern city. Sister lives in {East Asian country}. One lives in {place}. One lives at {place}, one lives at a northern town. One thing about - you know families? You'd think families 'ad be a close knit family won't ya? You'd think they'd meet every week end.

---

**Tommy** Or go on 'olidays every year with each other. Er, I 'aven't seen one of my brothers na for 18 month, and 'e only lives at {place}.

**TJ** Mm

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** I've put 'im on me

**TJ** Right. It's a tattoo for your dad?

**Tommy** In memory of a dear father yeah. Never kissed 'im. But I'm only one.

**TJ** Yeah. Were you close - were you particularly close to him or ...

**Tommy** Yeah, 'e was closest to me oldest sister.

**TJ** Right.

**Tommy** She adored 'im. She loved 'im. And when me dad died me sister lived at top of road 'ere.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** And she wouldn't leave 'im alone. They 'ad to move 'er. She wouldn't leave 'im alone. He wouldn't leave 'er alone. Me sister 'ad to move.

**TJ** Right.

**Tommy** 'cos 'e kept coming to see 'er.

**TJ** Kept coming to see 'er.

**Tommy** 'cos 'e loved 'er. 'e loved 'er. Well she were first one. 'e loved 'er that much. She ended up moving.



**TJ** Yeah. But you were also close to him?

**Tommy** I was very close to him, yeah. And I 'ad this put on. 'cos I didn't do what I should 'ave done.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** So I thought I'll 'ave it put on me arm.

**TJ** Yeah, and is that ring connected?

**Tommy** No that's what er, little lad bought me for me birthday.

**TJ** OK. I thought ...

**Tommy** I wish it 'ad 'ave been.

**TJ** Yeah, yes. So how do you feel now about - I mean it's been a - how long ago since your dad ...

**Tommy** Twenty years.

**TJ** Twenty years.

**Tommy** Still think about - there's people still talk about it. You know when you go in and you're going back?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** Start talking - I remember your father.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** I said "well talk about me dad" you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah.

---

**Tommy** 'cos I remember me dad as well. 'e used to be great.

**TJ** Can I just ask you - I mean I hope it doesn't sound too intrusive - but what - what you thought you were frightened of, when you wouldn't kiss him?

**Tommy** I were frightened in case 'e opened 'is eyes.

**TJ** Yeah, yeah.

**Tommy** You know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** I knew 'e'd be cold.

**TJ** Yeah, oh yeah.

**Tommy** Thought if I bent down to kiss 'im and 'is eyes opened, I don't know what reaction, you know, you know what I mean?

**TJ** Yeah, yeah.

**Tommy** I'm just sorry I didn't do it.

**Tommy** Yeah. I remember kissing my father's forehead and I didn't notice how cold it was, 'cos it was ...

**Tommy** It is cold in't it?

**TJ** Like marble.

**Tommy** And I think that's what - either kissing 'im or 'is eyes opening.

**TJ** Yeah.

---

**Tommy** 'cos I didn't want 'im to die. I thought 'e were just laid there asleep.

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

**Tommy** It 'it me after the week after. Like I say I 'ad 3 week off. Just broke down.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** breakdown, nervous breakdown at 20 odd year old is it?

**TJ** Mmm. Did you, you know - did you just take the time off?

**Tommy** No I 'ad doctors medication and everything, aye.

**TJ** Yeah?

**Tommy** just waking up screaming, why didn't I do it.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** Really, really upset me.

**TJ** But after 3 weeks were you as right as rain?

**Tommy** I come round. I went back to work after 3 week.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** And it - it were still there. It were still in me mind.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** I just kept coming 'ome and sitting in 'ouse. Then me mother must 'ave seen one of me friends, one of me mates. "Call for Tommy will ya, take 'im out, go out for a drink." And from that,

**TJ** How long do you think it took altogether before you were back to normal?

**Tommy** I would say at least 3 or 4 month. At least. Because if that chap 'adn't - if my mate 'adn't 'ave called for me, I'd 'ave never been out of 'ouse. I think I'd 'ave stopped in 'ouse. Really 'urt me when 'e'd gone, and when I didn't do that. So I thought there's only one way to do and that I'd 'ave a tattoo put on. And I 'ate tattoos.

**TJ** I mean was he a man that you loved because he was your father or was he somebody you had a lot in common with and you really did things together?

**Tommy** 'e were me dad. 'e were a big strapping bloke. And 'e 'ad nine of us. And when 'e died, never got anything out of it. That's what really 'urt me. Worked all 'is life at Steel and never got a penny out of it. Never got 'is bus pass. That's what 'urts. Really 'urt me that. 'cos it stinks. Work all your life for nothing. All of a sudden it just 'it's you like that (fingers clicking) thrombosis.

**TJ** OK. I'm going to ask one final question, and then I'll call it a day, for today. It was 33 years ago I think you said you moved here. That would make you-

**Tommy** Nine.

**TJ** Nine. OK. Can you remember anything about what it was like before you moved here?

**Tommy** I used to live at bottom of {place}.

**TJ** Bottom of the {place}.

**Tommy** Yeah, when all trams were going.

**TJ** Right.

**TJ** So what was it like going from the bottom of the {place}, which I can't remember what it was like 33 years ago - to moving here?

**Tommy** Well at bottom of {place} there were 2 firms, {name} and {name}.

**TJ** Yes.

**Tommy** You know them?

**TJ** I know {name}.

**Tommy** Did ya (laugh). Well {name} and {name} at {street}. We used to live at corner of {street} and {street}. Back to back 'ouses.

**TJ** Right.

**Tommy** Unbelievable. Used to 'ave Salvation Army come on corner of {street} every Sunday morning. I'll always remember it.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Tommy** And they always used to sing outside our 'ouse on Sunday mornings. Never forget a day, 'cos me mother keeps fetching it up, at {name} you see, they've got these - they had these big er, glasses, like a plastic bag - and er in casing. It's got this liquid in - acid in it. Do you know what I mean? Well me twin, 'e went and smashed one, it went all oer show didn't it? Fire brigade come and everything. Can't do nowt to a baby. Can't do nowt to a lad at 8 year old. There used to be a cafe on corner. Shop on other corner. And to go down town, it were only at bottom of {place}. Used to go down town. Used to go in Co-Op on thing. And used to go to {place}. Used to walk to {place}, on {street} - were it {street} - aye on {street} used to be picture palace. I think they still call it bingo place na. Used to go there every Saturday. Slide through exit door, some days we used to go up to {place} on old stepping stones. Went up there last week, they're still there you know, stepping stones. Used to be an old lady. Never forget, there used to be an old lady up there with er, old weighing machine. Sit on there, used to get all weights and weigh ya for a penny. It were great - I still say na, I'd 'ave loved to 'ave still been down there because all the people what moved from there - from bottom of {place}- 'ave moved back into maisonettes 'cos they're all maisonettes na. On {street}. All maisonettes, and 'alf of 'em 'ave moved back. And I wish I'd 'ave done same and moved back. But - been up 'ere 33 year na, and I'm not gonna change me life. I'm gonna stop up 'ere. Unless like winning pools or lottery. I'll probably buy this 'ouse and just extend it a bit. Because I shan't shift off estate. Because I've done nobody 'arm and nobody's done me any 'arm.

**TJ** OK. Well that seems like a good point to end for this time.

## Extract three – Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime

Interviewee: Roger (Int. 61)

Extract from 1st interview.

Extract from page 1 to 6 of 27 in original interview transcript.

**TJ** OK, can you first of all tell me about how crime has impacted on your life since you've been living in this area?

**Roger** Really it 'adn't really affected me, but I know it's affected other people, you know what I mean? In area. Other people, like, yeah.

**TJ** It's not really affected you?

**Roger** Well I've never 'ad no break er, ins or owt like that, you know what I mean?

**TJ** You've had no break ins? Nothing like that?

**Roger** Oh no.

**TJ** Er.

**Roger** No.

**TJ** So, OK. (laugh). Em, no break ins or owt like that?

**Roger** No.

**TJ** Em, in the 26 years you've been here?

**Roger** No, no, I 'aven't, no.

**TJ** Right. Can I ask where - where you've lived - you ...

**Roger** Lived on er, we lived on {street}, that's that main road.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** We lived there about 21, 22 years.

**TJ** Um hum.

**Roger** And in other - on a route onto back road, {street}.

**TJ** Street...

**Roger** {street}.

**TJ** How long were you there?

**Roger** About 4 years. Or 2 or 3. Three I'd say. Summat like that.

**TJ** And a couple of years here?

**Roger** Summat like that, aye. I round 'ere but...

**TJ** Yeah, but that sort of ...

**Roger** About rough.

**TJ** And in all of that time, on all of those 26 years, you've had no em, crime has not impacted upon you at all?

**Roger** No, not really, no. No. Nobody's been I've like, you know, when you live in area?

**TJ** Mmm.

**Roger** I don't know why, but I don't think they seem to - these young un's what's grown up, like what's you've known 'em from kids. And me sen, I don't think they - I don't know - way, they know me like. And that. So I don't know if they really bother with ya. You know what I mean?

**TJ** Mmm.

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**Roger** That's my impression. 'cos you see 'em going round all oer, like you see 'em driving these cars, they're going on this wood and dumping 'em.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Roger** There's been no end burnt out on that wood.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** And you can see these bits of young 'un's walking about like. Way, other week I went out with grandkid. And I took 'er for a walk. And I saw these youths with 2 carrier bags, went to a certain 'ouse, and you could tell what they were. They were car radios what they'd got in carrier bags.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** You could see 'em going on 'ere. Took one on wood other day.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** And this one were in paper, what 'ad got done. 'e got fined 100 and odd pound. 'e left car there, and 2 more young lads went in it, drove it down there, oer grass banking, and they come back after, these lads wi' 'em - and they were carrying these carriers, so they must 'ave stripped car down and set fire to it.

**TJ** Right.

**Roger** They'd got car radios. You knew what they'd got in carriers.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** Aye.

**TJ** So, though it hasn't impacted upon you, you have

**Roger** oh I've seen it

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**TJ** seen it around.

**Roger** Witness. Witness.

**TJ** You see it around?

**Roger** Yeah. Yeah.

**TJ** OK. Well em, you say you've grown up with these youngsters, so they - you know them.

**Roger** I know a lot of 'em, yeah. I know 'em all like. As soon as I see 'em like, na they're 18, I've known 'em since they were kids. But I know 'em you know? Soon as I see 'em in these cars like I've seen 'em driving about in these cars like, you know? All oer.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** But I know 'em, soon as I spot 'em like, you know? Know kids like.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** Aye.

**TJ** And the sort of things you see 'em doing are driving these cars?

**Roger** Oh aye, they supposed to - like I say they come back wi' carriers, they've stripped 'em and then they set fire to 'em. Fire engine's sometimes, oh - I don't know how many cars that's been done over that back in last few months. Knowing...

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah.

**Roger** And I don't know if it's right, but somebody's told me when they've burnt out, a bloke comes and picks 'em up for scrap.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** So I don't know if that's right or what.

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**TJ** Right. Right. So it's cars burnt out and er, you mentioned car radios.

**Roger** Aye. Way you see what they've got 'aven't ya? Them in carriers, must be.

**TJ** Right. And they - and they come into houses round here...

**Roger** Well know people who's been burgled. You hear 'em like talking don't ya?

**TJ** I don't know.

**Roger** on bus, I 'ear 'em on bus talking like. One woman says she's been burgled, and they caught 'im down back. And when - somebody witnessed 'em, but police said they couldn't do owt 'cos they'd got to catch 'em.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** And they tried to break in their 'ouse while 'usband were in bed, and 'e never 'eard 'em.

**TJ** Right.

**Roger** Aye.

**TJ** You heard this on the bus?

**Roger** Aye, on the bus, aye.

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah. That's - what about more directly? I mean do people ...

**Roger** Oh well, and - my daughter like who's come to live a across road.

**TJ** Mmm.

**Roger** She were flitting and got everything out on 'ouse - well she says to {name}, 'er 'usband er, "what about 'ouse?" He said "oh, I'll empty that tomorrow." When he went up next day, kids come running down - next door neighbour - lad's 'ad been in 'ut and pinched 'is er, what they call it - petrol driven lawn mower, and all 'is golf clubs.

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**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** They'd gone with them, aye.

**TJ** So they'd just been there overnight?

**Roger** Aye, and they'd gone in next day and busted it open, and pinched 'em.

**TJ** Ah ha.

**Roger** Aye.

**TJ** I see. I see. And what - and what happened afterwards?

**Roger** Well 'e went looking for this kid like, what reckoned 'ad done it. 'e said 'e 'adn't done it, reckoned 'e was at work.

**TJ** Right.

**Roger** That's what they, but 'is mother say 'e was at work, so. But kids 'ad said it were 'im. But mother said it weren't 'cos 'e were at work.

**TJ** Right.

**Roger** So 'e just left it at that.

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah. So you daughter's had em ...

**Roger** Aye it were she's only been in there about 3 month, but she were living up on er, {street} when that 'appened to 'ers. To 'ut.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** When they broke in 'ut.

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**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** Like I say she'd shifted everything out, and it were late at night. So 'e went back next - well 'e were gonna go back next day and empty 'ut - but next morning kids 'ad been in and emptied it for 'im. They took - took stuff out what were in it.

**TJ** Um hum. Um hum. But there was just those 2 or 3 items was it?

**Roger** Yeah that's all, yeah.

**TJ** Golf clubs and ...

**Roger** yeah, mower.

**TJ** And the mower.

**Roger** Mower, aye.

**TJ** Were they in the house, or were they ....

**Roger** There were outside, in 'ut outside.

**TJ** Yeah, hut outside. Yeah.

**Roger** Ya 'ear of regular round 'ere wi' people what's - what's been burgled.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** Regular - videos and televisions going.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** Like when we went away, we took that across to - though we 'aven't 'ad no trouble - we took that - video, we took across to daughters like. Er, to 'er 'ouse, just in case. But I doubt anybody would come in wi' dog. But you don't know, do ya?

**TJ** I see. How long have you had the dog?

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**Roger** Oh, 'e's about 10 year old now.

**TJ** Right.

**Roger** Oh 'e's a good 'ouse dog. 'e won't let nobody in.

**TJ** Yeah.

**Roger** But we said, oh no we'll take it just in case. 'cos you don't know. You 'ear 'em doing things to dogs don't ya?

**TJ** Well that's true.

**Roger** Aye, so.

**TJ** So you actually, before you went on holiday - this time you took the video ...

**Roger** Took the video and er, telly across to daughters upstairs.

**TJ** Right, I see.

**Roger** And jewellery what missus 'as got, she put in 'er bag and she took that to daughters. So if they got in like, they'd be - they'd be nowt for 'em to take would they really?

**TJ** Well, em, unless they were gonna take all your ...

**Roger** Oh aye brasses.

**TJ** Brasses and things.

**Roger** Aye. But I don't think they look for owt like that, such as them things, videos and telly, what they can get shut of quick.

**TJ** Yeah. Yeah. So this - but the dog was here the whole time.

**Roger** Oh aye, 'cos daughter keep come across and fed 'im and took 'im out like.

**TJ** Right. But even so, you took your stuff across.

**Roger** just in case, 'cos you don't know do ya like. I said er, never 'appened to ya, but it's best to be safe than sorry.

**TJ** Better safe than sorry, yeah.

## Pen portrait – Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime

### **Roger: A pen-portrait**

At 58, Roger is a prematurely aged man in poor health, the result of a mining accident that severely damaged his legs, heavy smoking ('I feel nervy without a cig ... right on edge') and arthritis. A married man, with four married children and 11 grandchildren, he and his wife have lived on the respectable side of the estate for 26 years, moving twice in that time. The first-born of five siblings, brought up on a 'rough and ready' nearby local estate by a strict, cruel, wife-beating father who he "ated", and a mother he 'thought the world of', he became a miner like his father, only to be disabled by a pit-shaft accident, an event which kept him off work for two years, left him temporarily depressed (although electric shock treatment left him 'as right as rain after') and permanently disabled. Though he did do labouring jobs subsequently, since 'light work' never paid enough, he was laid off in his late thirties and has never worked since.

We first met him hanging over his gate, smoking and apparently watching the world go by. This, family visits (his favourite daughter lives opposite), walking the dog, pub trips for darts, club trips for bingo and annual holidays (abroad for the first time last year) provide the compass of his essentially localized life. From his gate-post vantage point, he sees the local kids joyriding or transporting stolen parts in carrier bags, and hears stories of local burglaries and of police saying 'they couldn't do owt 'cos they'd got to catch 'em', but he has not personally been a victim of crime ('I've never 'ad no break ,er, -ins or owt like that'), though his daughter has had golf clubs and a lawnmower stolen from a garden shed, and his wife was mugged, off the estate, some eight years ago by 'coloured 'uns'.

This freedom from victimization he puts down to knowing the local kids, and they him: 'these young 'uns what's grown up, like what's, you've known 'em from kids. And mesen ...they know me like ... so I don't know if they really bother with ya'. This intimate local knowledge, no personal experience of victimization and the 'protection' of being a known local, is not however, sufficient to inoculate him from fear. When on his own at home, he is easily startled ('least little noise, I'd jump, me'), doesn't sleep well and, when opening the door late at night would always 'put catch on and open it just to 'ave a look to make sure who it were'. Before

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going on holiday, he leaves TV, video and his wife's jewellery with his daughter, despite the fact that he has, and always has had, a good house dog ('you 'ear 'em doing things to dogs ... best to be safe than sorry'). Though he is not frightened of walking round the area after dark, ' 'cos I've been brought up round 'ere', he wouldn't now cut through local woods or parks after dark, since he heard of a local pools collector being mugged by three Jamaicans 'about eight year ago' whilst doing so. Nor would he walk around certain areas where there are 'coloureds', though he would have done so when young ' 'cos there were no I know it's 'orrible to keep saying - but there were no coloureds hardly down there then'.

This fear of 'the coloureds', no doubt reinforced by the muggings of his wife and the pools collector, feeds into a broader sense of the decline of the estate. Thus he no longer goes in his local pub because it has a coloured landlord and rumours of drugs (it's a place where they go for drugs and that') and guns ('somebody went in ... looking for somebody with shotguns') though it used to be 'great' when he first moved onto the estate, full of 'rough and ready' lads. This 'then' and 'now' contrast recurred generally: when they first moved onto the estate it was 'smashing ...' tha could 'ave left the doors open or owt ... you never got no trouble then'. There were burglaries, 'but not like it is now'; there were kids riding motor bikes illegally in the woods then, but they hadn't stolen them first, nor did they burn them afterwards. Similarly with fighting: there were fights but 'nobody would join in and kick everybody in. Two lads who were gonna fight 'd fight, but would be stopped if one were getting 'a good 'iding'. Today 'they don't, they use glasses, knives and everything, don't they ... Now when you pick up paper or read news or owt - every time there's a fight, somebody's been knifed or summat. (..) Same with guns in't it?'

Discipline is one difference between then and now: 'when I were a kid - only brought up rough and ready, but daren't do owt wrong ...tha'd 'ave got - well tha'd ave got pasted - got a right 'ammering' a philosophy that extended from beltings at home and canings at school to 'glove across 'ear'ole' from local policeman if caught playing football in the street. Such harshness, he claimed, produced respect 'though you were only rough and ready, you respected 'em' [your parents]. He also hated his dad ('e were cruel old sod') especially for his treatment of his mother ('e were 'orrible wi' 'er). Now you see 'bits of kids at 13, 14 or 15 walking around estate at 12 o'clock at night and that ... In my days I wouldn't 'ave been allowed'. More directly, he can't even get the satisfaction of reporting joyriders he knows so well, though he'd 'love to', because his wife won't let him, for fear 'they'll come and put all your windows through'. Instead, he must simply watch them 'go past and do two fingers to ya .. 'cos they know you're watching'.

If local kids have not lost all respect, an influx of outsiders is another source of the decline. Though the estate has always been rough and ready, there's 'some right riff-raff up 'ere na ... you've got Scots and all sorts living up on [the rough end] .. there's gypsies on. Mind you, like I

say, they 'aven't done owt to me, but I don't know I care very much'. And the coloureds have taken over his local pub.

Though he would not class himself as a worrier, unlike his wife, he concedes to her counter-claim that he 'whittles' over his health: least little complaint, aches and pains, its doctors' and he admits to being 'nervy'. Though he first said that his nervousness was precipitated by his mining accident and the subsequent depression requiring EST, other questioning revealed this nerviness well preceded the accident, manifesting in all manner of ways. A self-confessedly 'timid' man, he's always been 'right careful' about 'crossing roads, owt like that' and 'wouldn't go on top of a roof', nor even as a kid climb a tree, hang on the back of a lorry or 'owt like that'.

Perhaps predictably, his first experience of flying was frightening 'I were terrified. They kept 'titting air pockets'. Talk of death and dying has always made him feel 'funny', perhaps stemming from his /// to kiss his dead grandmother ('I were petrified, I were terrified'. Even today, he'd be a bag of nerves, shaking if he ever found out he needed a serious medical op; he was 'frightened to death' when a doctor's letter came following up his recent chest x-ray. He's always been frightened of knives, but doesn't know why, squeamish about blood ('I went into watch [his youngest] being born and there were like blood all over, I were off'. By any reckoning then, and despite his self-assessment to the contrary, this is a nervy, cautious man, beset by what we regard as deep-seated anxieties.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Life stories and the defended subject

Read through chapters one and three from Hollway and Jefferson (2012) [Doing Qualitative Research Differently](#). This is the key publication from the study Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime.

Discussion points:

- Do respondents always 'tell it like it is'? If not why not?
- Can a narrating subject tell a completely coherent story?
- What do you, as the researcher, assume about a person's capacity to know, remember, and tell about themselves?
- Are the stories people tell about themselves always consciously constructed?
- How do the feelings evoked in an interview encounter relate to the words that are spoken?

### Activity 2: The psychosocial interview schedule

- What observations do you have about the different interview schedules?
-



- What changes did the researchers make to the pilot schedule to create the final schedules?
- Why do you think the researchers made these changes?
- Why do you think questions including the word 'why' are not used in Hollway and Jefferson's psychosocial research?

After the task read through pages 15-17 of the [user guide for Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime](#).

Also read chapter three from Doing Qualitative Research Differently (2000) or read and reflect upon page 35 'Avoid 'why' questions'.

### Activity 3: Analysing psychosocial data

Read through Extract 1 from the interview with Ron from Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime. Whilst reading the transcript free associate on the data by writing freely and uninhibitedly on the transcript print out.

Write down:

- Your first impressions of the data, of Ron and of his narrative.
- Your feelings when reading it. How does Ron's story make you feel? How does the way in which Ron tells his story make you feel?
- Your reflections on any contradictions, false starts and inconsistencies that you might notice.
- What themes can you see in the data?

Orientate your analysis based on the themes of the original project themes (i.e. on the relations among victimization, fear and anxiety).

Then read Chapter seven of Doing Qualitative Research Differently (2012). Compare your observations with some of those made by Hollway and Jefferson.

Ideally this exercise should use the transcript in its entirety so to allow for an understanding of the story as a whole, so if time allows please download the collection and use interview 63, and the follow up interview 64.

**or**

Read through and free associate in the same way with Extract 2 from the interview with Tommy.

Compare your observations to those on pages 41-43 of Doing Qualitative Research Differently (2000).

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\*If working with a group compare your ideas with other group members.

## Activity 4: Context and the psychosocial

For background to the study first read chapters one and two from Hollway and Jefferson (2012) *Doing Qualitative Research Differently*. Then read the interview schedules on pages 33 to 34 of the [user guide for Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime](#).

- Next read through and free associate on the extract from the interview with Roger, orientating your analysis based on the themes of the original project themes (i.e. on the relations among victimisation, fear and anxiety).
- What additional information would you like about the data in order to use it effectively?

Now read through the pen portrait of Roger.

- Discuss how useful this contextual information is in developing understandings about Roger's data.
- Reflect now on the beginning of this exercise. Were you able – even without the contextual pen portrait – to come up with themes and impressions from the data?
- Do you think there might be occasions when working with just the selected extract could be beneficial? Why?

## Activity 5: The free association narrative interview method

Read chapter three of Hollway and Jefferson (2012) *Doing Qualitative Research Differently*. Read as background to the method.

- Write a short description of the free association narrative interview technique.

Now read through the first three pages of Extract 2 from the interview with Tommy from *Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime*.

- Identify parts of the transcript extract where the Free Association Narrative technique method is carried out successfully or not successfully by the interviewer. Explain.
- What effect do you think this had on Tommy's interview?

## Tutor resource

### Activity 2: The psychosocial interview schedule

Read and compare the two final interview schedules on pages 32-36 with the pilot interview schedule on pages 26-29.

### Suggested discussion points

The final interview schedule:

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- Is much shorter and concise
- Has more open-ended questions
- Doesn't contain why questions
- Has less formal structure - it is designed to illicit stories in the interviewees' own words rather than just answers to set questions.

After the exercise ask students to read chapter three from *Doing Qualitative Research Differently* (2000) or ask them to read and reflect upon the section on page 35 'Avoid 'why' questions'.

### Activity 3: Analysing psychosocial data

Write down:

- Your first impressions of the data, of Ron and of his narrative.
- Your feelings when reading it. How does Ron's story make you feel? How does the way in which Ron tells his story make you feel?
- Your reflections on any contradictions, false starts and inconsistencies that you might notice.
- What themes can you see in the data?

All these questions encourage a holistic style of knowing the data but do not invite the data analyst to close down the meaning of what they have read.

The use of interpretations - plays too easily into people's wish to impose a tidy solution on life experience that is complex and elusive.

Interpretation should not, in our view, be conducted outside such a conceptual frame. We have tended to steer clear of the word 'interpretation' and in many contexts would talk about doing data analysis, instead.

(Wendy Hollway, notes from personal email)

### Activity 5: The free association narrative interview method

Read through the first three pages of Extract 2 from the interview with Tommy from *Gender Difference, Anxiety and the Fear of Crime*.

- Identify parts of the transcript extract where the Free Association Narrative technique method is carried out correctly/not correctly by the interviewer?
- Explain why you think the technique has been carried out correctly/not correctly in this extract.
- What effect do you think this had on Tommy's interview?

The interviewer goes against the Free Association Narrative principle when he says 'Can I just go back over something?' and asks for clarification of Tommy's age at various points.

Fortunately Tommy demonstrates that interviewees, when they are emotionally invested in a story, tend to stick to their theme, because he goes back to the story of not kissing his dead Dad.

Ideally what the interviewer would have done was leave his worry about factual details to be swept up in the final structured bit of the interview schedule and encourage wherever Tommy wanted to go with his story, even though he had just gone off on the track of his big family not getting together as he felt they should.

(Wendy Hollway, notes from personal email).

## Becoming a Mother

Hollway, W., *Becoming a Mother, 2005-2007* [computer file]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive [distributor], May 2010. SN: 6309, [DOI: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-6309-1](https://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-6309-1)

The aims and methods of the project and research questions have been taken directly from user guide for this collection.

## Aims and methods of the project

This research aims to contribute to theoretical, methodological and empirical understandings of the changes in women's identities in the process of becoming mothers for the first time.

It addresses questions central to the Identities and Social Action research programme objectives: the mutual influence of intra-psychic and social worlds, the negotiation of self in relation to others, the universal and culturally particular, continuity and change, the processes of identification and agency, regulation and positioning in structures and discourses.

The research gives equal emphasis to the psychological and social worlds of the participating mothers and aims to pioneer methods that allow both to be studied as part of the same questions.

## Research questions

1. How do women experience the process of becoming mothers for the first time?
2. How do ethnic, racialised, cultural, religious, age-related, social class and gender differences intersect with motherhood identities?
3. Using methods that go beyond what is put into words, what can we learn about embodied, unconscious, taken-for-granted and practical aspects of identity formation and change and what role is played by processes of identification?

4. What do women's accounts of their experiences of learning about being mothers (e.g. from family, health and social care professionals and through the media) tell us about the processes of subjectification as theorised in post-structuralist accounts of motherhood?

## Extract one – Becoming a Mother

Interviewee 1 (ID: 6309int023)

Extract from 1st interview.

Extract from page 1 to 10 of 20 in original interview transcript.

**Interviewer:** Morning, so, um the first question I suppose, these take you through the story of um since you discovered when the first time you discovered you were pregnant and all about that and that so shall I start off by saying can you tell me then about um the time when you discovered that you were pregnant?

**Mum:** (laughter so inaudible) um I'm smiling 'cos I uh we had just decided to em I had wanted to have children for a couple of years now, my partner and I have been together now for 3 years coming up to 3 years and he's always wanted to have children but it's always been something to have in in the future you know. He was ready and I've we've always known I was keen to have them and so I kind've waited for him to let me know that he was also ready to have them. We got engaged in February this year and em soon after that he said that he would be quite happy to have children (short pause) whenever they happened came about so we weren't officially trying to have a baby but we weren't obviously using contraception so em it had been quite soon after that. I was going for a meeting in {S. England} and um I was I think one or two days late for my period and knew that I would be bored in between going from London to {S. England} and just thought it would be (inaudible) I might just do the test 'cos I'd be disappointed if I wait until I get my period and find out and then my period comes just get a pregnancy test and see, so I guess I must have had quite a strong inkling that I was in fact pregnant and I did the test and got to {S. England} before I before I went for the meeting and saw the line and was absolutely delighted but quite surprised 'cos I've had friends and taken a lot longer for them to get that little blue line so I bought another three tests and did two of them in {S. England} went to the meeting and sat there not being able to concentrate on the meeting at all and got home and we did another one while I was at home and all four of them showed I was pregnant so that was fantastic and he was very excited when he got home and it took a while to actually sink in that it was genuinely happening but that's when I found out.

**Interviewer:** And did you feel any different you know the tests showed it did you feel that this was happening in your body?

**Mum:** Um at that stage I hadn't, as I say I think I must have had an inkling and obviously you know knew that it was a possibility that it could be the case that I was pregnant but until I saw the line or the lack of line I can't actually even remember now em (short pause) I hadn't felt any different but then after that I I could just visualise something growing and I felt suddenly much more aware of myself and em yeah the possibility that there was something else apart from me within me (inaudible – softly spoken).

**Interviewer:** So that was that was the beginning of knowing and how did things unfold?

**Mum:** Um from there we kind've we took about a a week or so you know it took some time for it to sink in we were both very excited and um spent a lot of time talking to each other about how things were going to change for us as a couple and what things we were going to have to do and trying to imagine you know obviously the time of year that the baby would arrive and we decided that we wouldn't tell our families until the three month mark um his mum 'cos my partner is he's English but his parents are {S. E. Asian nationality} and (inaudible) are {Asian country} so we have relatives all over the place and his mum had have gone back to {S. E. Asian country} em on holiday for a bit so we didn't didn't want to tell her over the phone and we didn't want to tell her separate to her husband so as we said and also we thought we would wait for the three month mark because we were, we'd read in all of the information that you know it's you're quite vulnerable until three months and we knew that they would well we hoped that we knew certainly that my parents would be very excited and we hoped and thought that his also would probably be very excited but we didn't want to get them too excited. I think we needed to wait until that three month mark for it to seem really real so we did wait but then yeah things remained pretty exciting pretty normal until about um seven or eight weeks when I had a I was at school and I had a bleed which I hadn't realised could be a perfectly normal part of pregnancy I uh just assumed that that meant that I had miscarried em so that was a a trip to the hospital and um quite a few hours spent in Casualty and examinations and things and then they told us that they couldn't give us a scan that day but I could go back the next day but they said it didn't necessarily mean that I had lost the baby it could have been caused by a number of reasons but I wasn't really convinced

**Interviewer:** ...and so

**Mum:** ...and I'd I'd just had blood, I hadn't passed any clots or anything (short pause) which was a reassuring sign apparently but then I came back home and I passed quite a big clot and so that that really meant for me was that I was certain then that I had miscarried. And then we had to go back to the hospital the next day for the scan and I was in two minds as to whether I even wanted to go because I was so sad and that we'd lost the baby at that point and we went and typical style we went in and we had been told that we'd been booked in and we hadn't been booked in so we got sent away and told to come back and I said well are you sure you know this has happened I've passed a clot do I really need to come back and they said yes

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you do so they sent us off and we had a cup of coffee and then came back and they did a scan and this tiny (inaudible) just a little mole and I wasn't looking at the screen at the time because I was sure that they were just going to say you know we're very sorry we can't find anything there was a little a little pulsing heartbeat and they said straight away as soon as they saw it excellent that's that's the baby there and see it's heartbeat and it's sooo tiny it's unbelievable but that was quite an amazing moment and I'm sure you can imagine absolutely delighted to discover and then afterwards I found out that it's quite common for some women to bleed at a certain point, it could've been caused by any number of reasons it could be in the course of a very healthy pregnancy (inaudible) so, yes that was quite scary. But then we decided to tell, even though we'd decided not to tell our parents, after that I really wanted to speak to my mum about what had happened, so we told my parents then and as it turned out my mum had actually had a similar bleed with my brother (inaudible) so that was reassuring in a way. And so from that stage until the three month scan we were very, very nervous and I felt very uncomfortable doing anything really very physical I went back to work took I did take a few days off but went back to work, but up until that point I'd just carried on as normal and then from that point I felt very much as if I had something very precious that I had to protect and so I stopped being quite so physical and didn't do so much exercise and things like that. Up to that point at the next scan it they were very pleased with everything and I think from that point the statistics of the chances of you losing the baby go down and that gave me quite a lot of comfort and gave us both a lot more confidence and then from that point I think we've been a lot more relaxed and

**Interviewer:** So the second scan ... was a routine scan was it

**Mum:** ... second scan was a routine scan "J" at twelve weeks and um yeah they found the heartbeat straight away and everything was

**Interviewer:** ... so normally that would have been the first time that you would have had this image

**Mum:** ...as it should be normally the first time yeah and it's it was incredible yeah yeah "J" because by twelve weeks it's it looks like a baby you can well you can see especially on the you can identify all the bits so the comparison of the form that was before that just was beating but obviously felt very much very precious to us at that stage already didn't look like a baby but then changed and looked like a baby, so that was fantastic and then obviously my parents knew about it already and we had told {baby's father}'s parents about it I think it must have been about ten weeks as soon as his mum came back from {S. E. Asian country} before we'd had the scan and we did that because we wanted we didn't want one family to feel as if they were being excluded from the news, so and they were, delighted, and they are very excited so we have two sets of very keen grandparents (inaudible – softer).

**Interviewer:** And your parents live in {N. E. England}.

**Mum:** My parents live in {N. E. England}, yeah and

**Interviewer:** and {baby's father} parents

**Mum:** his parents live in {area of London}. So they're close by, I wish it was the other way round (laughs)

**Interviewer:** (laughs) of course

**Mum:** but you can't have (inaudible) so yes um

**Interviewer:** And who else has got to hear at what points?

**Mum:** Em well school found out em I can't think if I'd told (softer) we hadn't told anybody at all apart from obviously each other you know as soon as I'd done the pregnancy test and then up to the point of the bleed we didn't tell anybody and then em a very close friend of mine at school actually walked into me as I'd the bleed happened in between a classroom and the loo and I I didn't really know what to do and I was I was you know I was crying as I walked out of the loo my friend just walked down the corridor and saw that I was upset and kind've whisked me off into a classroom so I told her at that point but at that point I was like I've just lost well you know I just well I was pregnant and I've had some bleeding and I think I've lost the baby (inaudible) managed to get something like that out em so she knew, I mean not that she was just like well you know you've got to go to the hospital or to your doctor's you've got to get it checked out had and we had to let somebody know downstairs in the office em but the head teacher (inaudible) so those two people knew. And then after I found out that everything was alright I had a few days off work and it's a lovely community at school, teachers and office staff and so I phoned in and I let the company er the school secretary know because she's all powerful (laughs) in the school and I was going to be off for a few days and I also knew that she would be very sympathetic and understanding about the reasons I told her what had happened. And then I told (inaudible) we had two classes in each year so I work very closely with another girl and we were teaching year 6 which has lots of SATS and tests and I knew you know it's unusual for me to have time off and I didn't I just wanted to let her know why I was not going to be there and then a few of (laughs)

**Interviewer:** (laughs)

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**Mum:** the other teachers at school said most of the school knew em but we kept it from our friends until we had the three month scan and at that point we just we told everybody, and we managed to tell most people in person rather than by you know by email which was lovely so we got their immediate reactions and

**Interviewer:** you kept on getting pleasure from each ...

**Mum:** ... um yeah

**Interviewer:** ... each kind of announcement in a way

**Mum:** ... that's it, that's it "j" and it's been quite an exciting year 'cos obviously it came quite soon after the engagement (inaudible) it's been very, very positive year.

**Interviewer:** And has this postponed the actual wedding?

**Mum:** No, no, we had planned um and booked and um it must have been the first must have been about a month (inaudible) found the venue which was in {Northern Britain} but we'd always planned to get married in the summer next year so the date was set but it it had um we'd arranged it around the school year so I was certain that I wanted a clear week in the summer after we'd broken up from school so we'd have it on the first Saturday that allows that so it's that Saturday in July and of course now I'll be off on maternity leave (laughs)

**Interviewer:** (laughs) I see

**Mum:** so we could have had it a little cheaper but never mind the deal was done by that stage and we'd put deposits down and things so we'll stick with that date and (pause) yeah we'll get photos of the baby as well as (laughs) the wedding, but we thought about then changing the date and {baby's father} parents were very keen for us to move it move it so that we would be married before the baby came and we considered it but thought that we'd like to keep the wedding as our commitment to each other and didn't really feel that it had, it it wasn't something that we felt was necessary to do just because we're having the baby we're committed to doing it at some point and think probably made the right decision. So so yes, that's also been quite fun to I think it's been quite good actually otherwise maybe I would have been completely taken over (laughs) by wedding plans and um

**Interviewer:** ... well moving, wedding, I mean it's quite a lot anyway

**Mum:** ... obsessed by it all (laughs) yeah yeah there's quite a lot going on "j"

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**Interviewer:** yeah

**Mum:** but I've got quite a lot of support, so (pause) not a problem (pause) just getting the last little details hopefully it will get sorted in the next couple of weeks so hopefully the baby will wait it's turn (laughs) um and come after I've had a couple of days to get sorted.

**Interviewer:** And so your your um experience of kind of knowing that the baby was there actually comes very close on the heels of you discovering you were pregnant really because of this very early scan

**Mum:** um, um

**Interviewer:** and um and what about the the stage that comes later when you could actually feel the baby

**Mum:** feel the baby that was really exciting as well 'cos we had we had quite a busy summer and initially when I um at seven weeks 'cos we had quite a busy year planned had weddings quite a few weddings to go to and quite a few of them had been abroad and initially I was well that's it I'll not go to I'll not do any flying or risky activities but the more the pregnancy progressed and I didn't have any further complications so all evidenced seemed to suggest that actually it's fine to fly so we went to {North America} and {North America} during the summer term, had a lovely road trip a nice relaxing holiday with family in {North America} at the end and we were in {city in North America} in a hotel and I'd had a lot of em belly rumbles (laugh) kind of movement in my stomach but I have quite a lot of that anyway and I wouldn't have been able to distinguish that but somehow when we were in {city in US country} there was something of a new sensation in in my stomach and I knew that it was about the right time to start to feel the baby move and it was kind of like a like a belly rumble but but more than it was I knew that it was definitely the baby moving and it took a couple of days to feel confident that that was definitely it but (inaudible) just felt the baby move and from then I could feel that kind of sensation fairly regularly throughout the day. And then I can't remember when it started feeling like it does now like it's been moving you can probably see (laughs) although since you've arrived he's suddenly woken up which is quite unusual 'cos normally he stays asleep during the day but he's been wriggling around but I can't remember when it changed but there's definite progression of feeling and the change in sensations to the point now where I can look at it and I can see and they were saying well I've been told that it's half-way engaged. So I there's a sense you know of the legs being over here and

**Interviewer:** you pretty much know that it's position

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**Mum:** Um ... um yeah yeah yeah

**Interviewer:** ... because of how it feels all the time “j”

**Mum:** And I had a sensation last week that it kind of it might be (laugh) that it might be absolute rubbish and I’m just convinced and like to think it is that em it’s it almost felt like um like a dog digging in the sand kind of (laugh) sinking down

**Interviewer:** Like engaging sort of ... getting into place

**Mum:** ... um um yeah “j” that’s it getting itself ready and I think it’s still it’s not turning obviously though it still could do if it wanted to I don’t feel as though it’s turning from here up but I think it’s turning ‘cos sometimes I get a sensation or so as if it’s like water going through a plug when it does that kind of (‘slurping noise’) it does that quite frequently.

**Interviewer:** And so you know when to expect sleep and activity and

**Mum:** Sleep, yes, generally um he and and I call it he I don’t know if it’s a girl or a boy but it’s a he today could be a she tomorrow um, when I go to bed or whenever I lie down it generally wakes up and moves and um you can I can feel it kicking I think the two main sensations are moving and of it having the hiccoughs and the hiccoughs now I feel are down here and the movement I feel more across here and it also um when {baby’s father} comes to bed he always comes to bed much later than I do and I usually kind of stir when he comes to bed and it always you know we have a cuddle and you can feel it kicking and he likes to um maybe it’s true that it recognises when dad’s come to bed (laugh) and is saying hello, and having a little play, and he talks to it as well, a lot

**Interviewer:** Oh it’s said that voice travels isn’t it

**Mum:** Um

**Interviewer:** Let’s put that there so it doesn’t um stop you, no it’s so you can lean back. When when did he first um was able to pick up the movement?

**Mum:** I can’t remember the exact (long pause) the exact occasion when he did which is awful I feel very selfish but I know um I can remember the noise (‘woooo’) and you know he was absolutely certain he had put his hand on the belly and had felt it, it must it must have been a wee while after the first time I was aware, and it certainly I can remember it giving him good once when he was talking to it coming out and giving him a really good kicking and he’s you

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know (inaudible) part came out and the belly moved and gave me a good whack (inaudible) I can't remember the first time I'll have to ask him tonight (softer) but he certainly he talks to it every day and feels it's movements everyday keeps a a check on how it's going and going back to the whether I know when it should be moving he's very good 'cos sometimes I'll get a bit well he hasn't moved for an hour or two hours and he'll sit very patiently and feel and sometimes he can feel it even when I can't feel it internally he can feel it moving (inaudible) so he's quite good at reassuring me that he's alright.

**Interviewer:** So you like to be able to feel something every hour or so just to know ... that everything's alright

**Mum:** ... yeah, yeah "j" yeah, I always sometimes I find at night that it can be quite difficult to go to sleep with it if it's really active but I just keep thinking I'd rather it was doing that and I know it's alright than being completely quiet and sometimes I give it a little nudge and see if it responds (laugh) I try not to do that too often. But yeah

**Interviewer:** (laugh) and does that sometimes work do you sometimes is it like saying you know

**Mum:** um I'm not sure if it does or not it it certainly it can be um quite shy around but as I said usually when {baby's father} he can get a response from it but it's almost as if um like when my mum and dad always like to stroke it and try and give it say hello to nanny hello to granddad it won't do what I say (laughs) doesn't play tricks doesn't do tricks.

**Interviewer:** Ummm. So um in the in the the first three months that you described obviously the the real scare thinking you might have lost it but how well are you apart from that or indeed beyond the first three months you haven't mentioned feeling sick or

**Mum:** Nooo, no, em I think apart from that I've I've had kind of text book pregnancy well maybe not the pregnancy that everybody would really like em I haven't had any sickness at all, I have had an increased appetite and decreased exercise so I have put on em more weight in my legs than I would have like to but I'm not I'm not bothered about weight gain 'cos I think of it as (inaudible) I need to eat as much as I need to eat to provide the nutrients for this one so I'm not overly concerned about that (softer). I haven't had any further bleeding it was just that one day, I've been lucky so far I haven't stretch marks or piles as somebody was telling me about the other day or anything every time I go to the midwife they're pleased my blood pressure is as it should be and I'm not worried about the delivery I'm obviously apprehensive 'cos I know that it's going to hurt but I'm not um I'm not unduly concerned I think I'm so excited about having baby that that doesn't really intimidate me too much, and I'm also quite lucky because there were two colleagues of mine one that I was quite close to and one

that I get along with well um who were two months ahead of me they were both pregnant and they've just had their babies, so that was really lucky and one was I remember at last year's Christmas party sitting down with (inaudible) both of us getting (inaudible) to get pregnant in the next couple of years. And we were both you know we were talking about how (inaudible) it could be difficult and we were worried 'cos we were both ready to have babies and we were you know what if we don't get pregnant what is the best way and we were laughing about some things we'd read about doing handstands after we'd had sex to make it more likely to conceive and. So that was lovely to have to have that and then to find out that {colleague} was pregnant was really exciting and then um obviously then finding out that I was pregnant and it was nice having it was almost like having a mentor because she could tell me all the things that I would or should expect at different stages of the pregnancy and also she um she was quite sick so I could see the things that could happen to you as you got pregnant and then I managed to get lucky and not have the ill effects of the things that had the reassurance of this is what will happen, you know this is how your body changes and, it was just lovely to have somebody to talk to who was going through a similar point in time

**Interviewer:** And she's had her baby ... just recently presumably

**Mum:** ... just just recently“]” she had it two, two and a half weeks ago.

**Interviewer:** And have you visited?

**Mum:** We had coffee a week and a half ago, she had quite a traumatic birth unfortunately and she went overdue she was ten days overdue um and then her waters broke but they had meconium in the waters and she had to have a monitor and eventually she had to have a caesarean. So um but even though you know that's obviously not the way that she had wanted things even that in a way is quite selfishly reassuring because despite the fact that it was completely not what she wanted she's obviously well not obviously she is still delighted to

Interviewer: ... once the baby's there

**Mum:** ... (inaudible) “]” but she was also very frank and honest about she checked that I wanted frankness and honesty (laugh) but she gave me another expectation you know she it's broadened my thinking about how things might turn out and I feel very much that the more information and the more knowledge you have about the way that the birth could go extremely well (inaudible) (laughs) ask me how when it ...actually comes to the big day

**Interviewer:** ... well yeah, yeah, of course (laughs) “]”

**Mum:** cowering in the corner and cry all morning (laugh) it feels feels whilst I feel sorry that she had that experience for my own gain it it's interesting to hear you know (inaudible).

## Extract two – Becoming a Mother

Interviewee 1 (ID: 6309int024)

Extract from 2nd interview.

Extract from page 1 to 7 of 21 in original interview transcript.

**Interviewer:** How are things going?

**Mum:** So going very well, the move to {East Anglia} went very smoothly, the intervening period between the move and Christmas was very tough because we were living here but his parents were looking after {baby son} whilst I was working and so I was living in {S. E. England} for half of the week, taking him over to {S. E. England} and staying there. So that I found very difficult.

**Interviewer:** And working in London still?

**Mum:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** To finish off the term.

**Mum:** Yeah. So that, was tiring and he just, he didn't settle so he didn't really start sleeping through till Christmas all the time, he was sleeping through when he was here but when he went to {S. E. England} he wouldn't sleep through it, so of course the nights that I was working I was getting the least amounts of sleep, so I found that very tough. But I always knew that I was finishing at Christmas so...

**Interviewer:** Gosh you must have been glad?

**Mum:** I was, I was sad in a way because that's where I've worked since I began my teaching but it was the right time to go.

**Interviewer:** You had worries about leaving him with ? Parents anyway didn't you?

**Mum:** Yeah which I think actually as it turned out, was something once I got use to it I felt fine. His mum and his dad always looked after him together and er, yeah it worked out well so I didn't worry about him during the day. And I think I'm pleased, really that we didn't put him in a

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nursery until, I think now he's ready to go to nursery but I think until he was a year I would have felt more guilty than I'd be comfortable with sending him in to a nursery.

**Interviewer:** I'll just put this near you.

**Mum:** So that's you know a big change but good and then Christmas we had the whole family here so that kind of kept us busy for that period.

**Interviewer:** When you say the whole family you mean your parents?

**Mum:** My parents, my brothers and his parents and his brother and some cousins, so there were 12 of us, and it's the first time we've done Christmas so that was great fun and it went smoothly so, that was quite nice. And then since Christmas we've, I've been trying to get involved in as many parent and baby groups as I can to try and test the water and see what days are going to work out the best days to stay at home. I'm already starting to think okay I'd quite like to go back to work ultimately, eventually, not immediately but maybe in a couple of months' time I'd be quite ready to, go back to work. But I've signed up with a supply teaching agency so that offers me the most flexibility.

**Interviewer:** And could that pop up at any time or have you said starting from?

**Mum:** Em, ..no. I have to have my criminal records and background checked and that takes about 6 weeks and probably by the time that goes through I'll be ready, I have also told them that my number one aim is flexibility and there might be some weeks where I don't want to work and some weeks where I would be, I was going to do it for 2 days and they seem to be quite happy with it.

**Interviewer:** So you won't have much of a long break really, cos you worked until the end of last term?

**Mum:** Yeah yeah. But we'll see you know. I'm keeping my options open. But I..

**Interviewer:** But you've got an option, is it an option not to work?

**Mum:** It is an option we can't ever say definitely I don't have to go to work, cos {baby's father} works on short term contracts but we've always got 2 months buffer zone so we know that if he wasn't working, we've basically got two months if he weren't to get a job for two months then..

**Interviewer:** Oh can I have that as well that is quite generous.

**Mum:** But yeah if weren't working I'd need to go back. But to be honest if he wasn't working for two months we'd need another lifestyle change because I obviously couldn't support this lifestyle on a two day a week supply.

**Interviewer:** This lifestyle being a hefty mortgage.

**Mum:** It's not our house so it's not a hefty mortgage but it's a hefty rent. And we're now looking hopefully to buy.

**Interviewer:** So this is not feeling like a permanent place to settle?

**Mum:** Not yet no, we think it will be, well it looks like it will be {East Anglia} and hopefully where [unclear] I'm about 90% happy that this is where I'd like to be, {baby's father} is less though.

**Interviewer:** So tell me about the decision to come here and leave {London borough}, where I first met you?

**Mum:** Its basically long term we were always thinking we didn't really want to bring a family up in central London just because I, I don't think it's a very child friendly place, I would have been happy really up until he started to go to school probably. But I didn't want to move and have to start everything get him settled at that late stage, so our rent we had to make a decision whether we were going to stay for another year in the flat we were or whether to move and it just seemed like the right time to try something. I liked {East Anglia}, because I did my PGCE here, it's easy enough as a commute here for {S. E. England} so he decided to give it a go. And he likes {East Anglia} very much but he's had er, we've actually had two different contracts since we moved here one was in {S. E. England} which was a heck of a, it was bad enough from {London borough} and it was a nightmare from here, and then the other one he was able to work from home and he's just started today a new one, thank you, in the city so really this is the time to tell if he's going to be happy with that sort of a commute.

**Interviewer:** And daily?

**Mum:** Daily yeah.

**Interviewer:** Even {S. E. England}?

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**Mum:** Mm. Yeah but now I mean it would be better if he's just in the city, but we'll see, he only feels he gets to see {East Anglia} at the weekend.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mum:** But we'll see. I feel, quite settled, yes we'll weigh it up for a couple of months and see, I'm not going to push {baby's father} too much because I think it's important for him to feel happy where we are.

**Interviewer:** And he's not seen as much of it as you because he's not here very often...

**Mum:** No no.

**Interviewer:** So presumably it takes a while for him to decide that he's doing anything except just in transit.

**Mum:** That's it and while there's an excellent train service to London you know 45 minute train, non-stop train to Kings Cross, at all other hours apart from rush hour which I didn't realise, or if you're coming back after having been out in town for the night, so I've always thought oh {East Anglia} is so close its very easy to commute cos it only takes 45 minutes, but in reality if you're commuting it actually always takes an hour at least and then the night train back is quite, an hour and 15 minutes. So..[5]

**Interviewer:** So tell me about {baby son}, he's had his first birthday, clearly.

**Mum:** That's all his Christmas presents and his first birthday presents.

**Interviewer:** What does it feel like then to have a baby who's one?

**Mum:** It feels quite peculiar, I think more so than him being one when he started to work which was just about Christmas time, that felt more like a mile stone because he really stopped being a baby and becoming a little boy. So er, yes that feels quite strange, but I love it as well because he's more, you can communicate with him a bit more.

**Interviewer:** So you've gained that but what have you lost?

**Mum:** Lost a bit of er, [laughing] the ability to relax when he's awake. Because I'm always thinking, he's actually very good at controlling himself and he seems to be aware of some

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risks but at the moment he's learning how to climb into things and obviously we've got quite hard flooring so, yeah.

**Interviewer:** And what else has changed? There's all that mobility and independent action.

**Mum:** Yeah and I feel that I might have been saying this, because really since he's been able to crawl he's been able to take things from other people but when we're out in groups now that he can walk, he's very independent little boy. So whenever we go in to a group you know he's quite happy to, he'll leave me at the door and go towards whatever is going on. And he's not usually noisy when he goes in to the group, he's quite quiet but he likes to look around and he can see what he wants.

**Interviewer:** You can have that but not this, actually he's been very careful, he's looked at me and he's gone like that but not gone any further. So he is actually finding out whether it's alright, I thought that was quite noticeable how careful he was. So the thing about him just going off in to a group and leaving you at the door, presumably that makes you feel that he can manage nursery?

**Mum:** Yeah yeah and actually I think he would thrive in nursery, because he is a very sociable person, he likes to be around people. But yes the only thing that worries me is that the, obviously he's not being naughty he doesn't understand consequences, and other people's property but I do worry that he'll spend the whole day pinching other kids toys. And biscuits too, he's worked out, cos we always have tea and biscuits at these things and he's worked out exactly where to go, so people have biscuits and if he doesn't get given one he knows that there will be kids there that sometimes kind of stand like that with their back to him and he'll just go and steal their biscuits from them, so I do worry how somebody that's not [unclear] will cope with him.

**Interviewer:** What the people running the nursery, take it the wrong way.

**Mum:** Yeah. [child restless] I'll give in for a quiet life today.

**Interviewer:** And his I was going to call it speech, the vocalisations and things what about his communication that way?

**Mum:** He's very vocal, no real words yet, you can see him saying dadadadad a lot.

**Interviewer:** Yes thank you for the demonstration.

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**Mum:** And he can say ow ow.

**Interviewer:** Can you say ow?

**Mum:** He can say ow and his granny is sure that he's saying thank you, obviously not saying thank you but if is given something she thinks that he says thank you. And he likes to play with er, things that he thinks are fun so he'll make these things in to, and he'll hold it by his ear and the he'll yabble on. But I don't, yeah I don't know how long it's going to be before the words start coming, but he clearly thinks he's communicating.

**Interviewer:** He is certainly, yes.

**Mum:** And he knows, he forgets things as well quite quickly. My mum taught him how to clap his hands, and he was he would do that, for quite a while and he can do high 5 and say how do you do? Do the actions, but er.

**Interviewer:** So he last saw your parents at Christmas presumably?

**Mum:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And had you been in much?

**Mum:** No since I went back to work, I went up a lot until July, and obviously with the wedding and things and then September I went and then I haven't been able to get back but we're going up next week. After we went back to work and its actually now, it's so much more difficult to be on the train for any length of time with him before he just sits in one place, and now if I can time it right I can get an hour of sleep with him but that still leaves 2 hours wanting to be up and down so.

**Interviewer:** But he knows them presumably quite...

**Mum:** Yes they've been down probably 3 or 4 times apart from Christmas so.

**Interviewer:** I don't think you'd actually, your wedding was still being planned last time I saw you, since I saw you last you've become a married woman. Does it feel any different?

**Mum:** Not really. No apart from, I have a long surname now, that has been a change.

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**Interviewer:** Do you use it?

**Mum:** Mm yes. Although sometimes I think it might have been a lot more straightforward just to have kept my old name, I like my name very much but when it comes to the practicalities to giving it on the phone and things its, it becomes quite boring quite quickly but never mind.

**Interviewer:** And that was in, was it late July?

**Mum:** Mm.

**Interviewer:** So you still had a bit of the summer after that to chill out before.

**Mum:** Before going back to work yeah. I had about a month afterwards.

**Interviewer:** Because the beginning of the summer there was a lot going on wasn't there? You know one thing after another.

**Mum:** Yeah I went back for a week, obviously [talk from baby] coming up, so yeah we just relaxed a bit after the wedding. Don't know what we did actually. I think I just got my head around going back to work, spent the time somehow quite happily. And then work was quite difficult to begin with as well because we had a boy with very special needs in our class and it became increasingly apparent that he really couldn't cope in a mainstream school and particularly with two different teachers so he actually ended up leaving the school at around the same time that I had made the decision that I was definitely going to leave, and then it was a much nicer job after that, much easier. But that was quite, it was quite hard because it knocked my confidence as a teacher for quite a while because I couldn't teach, and whilst I knew the reason it was because he was very, very disruptive it still made me oh you know, if this was last year, I would have more of a handle on it so for a while I felt very unhappy teaching as well, o so I was lucky I suppose in a way,

**Interviewer:** And so you were having a difficult teaching life, you were having a pretty awful commute, you'd left {baby son} not every day, 2 days a week?

**Mum:** I was working 2.5 days but essentially with the travelling really it was about 3 days.

**Interviewer:** And then you weren't sleeping either?

**Mum:** No. So it wasn't a great time.

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## Extract three – Becoming a Mother

Interviewee 2 (ID: 6309int011)

Extract from 1st interview.

Extract from page 1 to 7 of 26 in original interview transcript.

**Male:** Is it a voice activated type?

**Interviewer:** Um no, no, no it's not, it's

**Male:** A direct one.

**Interviewer:** It's just a direct one, it um it just picks up (inaudible). So, thanks again for, for letting me come to see you and um I just wondered how, how everything's been since I since I last saw you?

**Mum:** Oh, fine, everything is fine and I'm very happy

**Interviewer:** Yeah

**Mum:** Very, very happy, everything is fine to be honest everything is fine I don't have any difficulties or anything

**Interviewer:** Uhuh

**Mum:** Yeah everything is fine.

**Interviewer:** That's great news.

**Mum:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Um, last time I came we talked a little bit about the birth but I wondered if you could sort of talk me through talk me through the birth.

**Mum:** Yeah, I told you I was expecting my baby {date} between {date} and {date}.

**Interviewer:** That's right, yeah.

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**Mum:** For some reason she couldn't wait she wanted yeah she wanted to come so {date} is it {a month before due date} yeah I was feeling a little bit (inaudible) I have to wait for my husband when he came when my husband came we have to go to the GP and GP asked (? asked) me to go to {hospital} to see my midwife and over there they said no baby's about to come I said no it's not my time and the midwife said oh yes the baby's about to come so from 11 o'clock toooo I think before 4 it wasn't easy at all.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mum:** It wasn't easy at all. Before I realised who (inaudible) is is is very painful and I can't explain about the pain and it it's something natural I think every women have to go through and (short pause) I'm happy,

**Interviewer:** Yeah

**Mum:** Yeah, I'm really happy, it it's painful but there is nothing you can do is better than a caesarean because it's a natural birth yeah and I'm I'm really happy for that

**Interviewer:** Alright

**Mum:** I'm really happy

**Interviewer:** And did you did you um you didn't have much pain up until 11 o'clock oh no sorry I mean obviously the actual time in the hospital sounds like it was extremely painful but up until up until say 11 o'clock before you went to hospital

**Mum:** Hmm, the whole thing started around I think 4 o'clock

**Interviewer:** In the morning

**Mum:** In the morning, but I thought it was just a normal something I was going to the loo I thought so everything before I think quarter to six I saw some small blood I said no I'm not supposed to bleed I have to just because I thought maybe it's just something small, something normal I was lying down six o'clock it was too much

**Interviewer:** Right, okay

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**Mum:** I have to shower and then wait for my husband

**Interviewer:** ... because he was ('working'), yes, yes

**Mum:** ... he wasn't around yes he wasn't around in our house "j" I was here by myself and I was feeling I started feeling some pain but because I was greenhorn I don't know what is birth or something I thought it just something normal

**Interviewer:** Yeah

**Mum:** Not knowing I was in labour, which I don't know so the doctor we went to the GP the GP asked us to go to the (short pause) {hospital} before I started having some pain I mean from there from here to {hospital} started having some shaaarp here shaaarp pain here then I think that um I um {name} I think that GP gave me some paracetamol yeah paracetamol I don't if just after the paracetamol the pain just I don't know after the paracetamol all the pain (male voice - went down) yeah I think so so from 11 o'clock no pain and the midwife was asking me whether I was feeling some pain or something and I said no and I think I have to start feeling some pain before the baby she told me I was 7 metres something

**Interviewer:** 7, 7 centimetres possibly?

**Mum:** Something like that from 9 I have to start pushing 9 between 9 and 10 I have to start pushing which I don't feel the pain and she was asking me what I wanted a the epidural, um gaaaas (male voice – epidural), something I said no I don't want anything but from 2.30 to 3 o'clock I realised the pain was very severe pain

**Interviewer:** And you'd had nothing apart from the

**Mum:** No eventual I have to go for the I think is it gas or what (male voice – gas and air) yes because the pain was too much and then just after quarter to four, cor baby was there so it's not really it's not really painful but for just thirty between twenty to thirty minutes oooh it was too much yeah it was too much

**Interviewer:** Ohhh, and obviously your husband was with you all the time

**Mum:** Oh yes he was there he was there then there was one lady she's a student student mid-wife ohhhh she really helped

**Interviewer:** Did she (softer)

**Mum:** Yeah she's she's {name} she really helped she was if I could say she was my saviour

**Interviewer:** Really

**Mum:** I know my husband was there but but she really helped me ohhhh I can't describe it

**Interviewer:** How, how did she help you what sort of things did she do

**Mum:** Oh in case of anything I mean like she hold my hand she told me you are going to be fine everything is going to be fine I remember I asked her because I realised that the doctors were just going coming all of them were going and I realised there was something wrong with me because when we go there the woman the mid-wife asked me to (short pause) she want some urine so I have to give but it was blood everything was blood

**Interviewer:** Oh really

**Mum:** Yes, so they wanted to rush me to the theatre so I don't know I realised everything all the mid-wife were just going coming the doctors everybody so I just I said {name} {name} what is going on can you tell me what is going she said no I'm a student I'm not supposed to tell you anything you have to ask the mid-wife so I realised there is something wrong with me

**Interviewer:** Absolutely,

**Mum:** Yes something wrong with me but I don't know I don't know

**Interviewer:** You you don't know what it was (male voice – I'm just having you message on the phone {name}) oh really (laughs) how funny

**Mum:** I don't know what is going on the lady don't she simply don't want to say anything because she told me she is a student she's not supposed to say anything to me

**Interviewer:** And what did the qualified mid-wives tell you

**Mum:** I don't want to ask them all the doctors about five doctors six mid-wife they were just going coming just too much (softer) and {name} is not ready to tell me anything she just hold

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my hand she said don't you are going to be fine everything is going to be fine you are okay  
blah blah blah I mean she's been there (male voice – um sorry is that your number)

**Interviewer:** Ummm, (pause) yes of course it is sorry (laughs) didn't recognise it (male voice – then it's ringing) oh, ah no I switched it off (male voice – really) no I switched I switched the tone off (male voice – there was a missed call) did it call you, oh, okay maybe it was, maybe maybe it was earlier. Um anyway I'm here now. So so {name} she was kind of holding (inaudible) hand, holding your hand

**Mum:** Oh yes, ... yes allowing me to cool down

**Interviewer:** ... but it must have been a worrying time “]” was it

**Mum:** Yes I mean from 11 o'clock to 3 o'clock ohhh it was too much and I don't know what is going on nobody is ready to tell me what is going on

**Interviewer:** Right, okay

**Mum:** And I remember {name} told me calm down everything is going to be fine she's not ready to tell me anything but she said calm down everything is going to be fine going to be okay ohh anytime I call her she be there just I just want somebody to hold me that's all and she's there she's kind even she's better than the senior midwife the patience I mean the way that she would talk to you oh god even if you are in pain you calm down, yeah

**Interviewer:** Yeah, and um I mean obviously there there there was a concern you might need to go to the theatre and and that you wouldn't be able to have the baby naturally

**Mum:** Because nobody is telling me anything

**Interviewer:** Okay

**Mum:** Yeah nobody is telling but later after everything they gave me after the birth of my baby everything before {name} told me they were about to send me to the theatre

**Interviewer:** Aha

**Mum:** That is what she told me I remember after everyting after everyting she told me ohhh

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**Interviewer:** They were thinking about maybe about a caesarean

**Mum:** Yes I got to got to be able to deliver the baby myself other than that they just send me to the theatre a caesarean is something I don't want

**Interviewer:** You really didn't want that

**Mum:** Ahhhh, no

**Interviewer:** Why, why was that were you particularly why were you particularly worried about caesarean do you think

**Mum:** Ohhh, no you know I'm here with my husband after caesarean who is I mean who is going to help us you need to take your time after caesarean I think three or four, three months or so before you can able to stand on your feet and do something but just after the hospital (inaudible) to do everything and to be honest I'm fine

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah

**Mum:** I'm fine I can (inaudible) start work tomorrow yes (male voice – that's why you feel (inaudible) depressed) that is what I'm telling you I'm fiiiine but caesarean ummmm

**Interviewer:** No then it's obviously it's more complicated ahh

**Mum:** Because I remember sorry because I told {name}, I remember I told {name} please I don't want a caesarean she said no no no no because (laugh) I realised it's a question mark somewhere but they don't want to tell me anything but by his grace I believe in God

**Interviewer:** Yes,

**Mum:** I believe in God and I heard this senior midwife telling {name} oh this mum will deliver the baby before 4 o'clock and it's true

**Interviewer:** Yeah, and she I know what they're talking about

**Mum:** Yes, before 4 o'clock my baby was there

**Interviewer:** And did you did you know that {baby daughter} was a girl before you delivered ... you were, you had found out

**Mum:** ... oh yes, yes, I asked them “j” I asked them they said it’s 5% sure she’s a girl

**Interviewer:** Yeah

**Mum:** So I was just doing my preparation pink pink pink pink I knew I knew

**Interviewer:** You knew that she was a girl and that was important for you to

**Mum:** Yes

**Interviewer:** To know that she was a – ... to know what sex the baby was.

**Mum:** ... yes, I knew.

**Interviewer:** Can you remember when they first told you that you were

**Mum:** To be honest I was looking for the big (‘yellow’), so I was so happy I was very happy, my husband (male voice – I wanted anything laughs) no, no, no, no he told me he wanted a baby boy (male voice – yeah, yeah) so (male voice – this is a good choice, good choice) I’m really happy and I’m going to looove and cherish her, yeah.

**Interviewer:** She is she is absolutely she is so sweet sitting here lying here in her little cot, absolutely gorgeous.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Developing a psychosocial methodology

Read through the [user guide documentation for Becoming a Mother](#).

- What research methods did the researchers use in this project?
  - What advantages do you think these researchers gained by interviewing the mothers three times?
  - What kind of data was created in this study?
  - How did the researchers validate their interpretations of the data?
  - What did the psychoanalytically informed observation bring to this study?
-

## Activity 2: The interviewer and interviewee relationship

Read through extract one and extract two from Interviewee 1 from *Becoming a Mother*.

- How was rapport developed in this study between the researchers and the mothers?
- How much does the relationship between interviewer and interviewee matter? Why?
- How close should this relationship be?

## Activity 3: Analysing psychosocial data

Read through one of the three transcripts for the collection on *Becoming a Mother*: extract one, extract two or extract three.

Whilst reading the transcript free associate on the data by writing freely and uninhibitedly on the transcript print out.

Write down:

- Your first impressions of the data, of the interviewee and of her narrative.
- Your feelings when reading it. How does the interviewee's story make you feel? How does the way in which the interviewee tell her story make you feel?
- Your reflections on any contradictions, false starts and inconsistencies that you might notice.
- What themes can you see in the data?

Orientate your analysis based on the themes of the original project themes (i.e. experiences of becoming a mother, family relationships, ethnicity, identity, socio-economic status, etc.).

## Tutor resource

### Activity 1: Developing a psychosocial methodology

Read through the user guide documentation for *Becoming a Mother*.

- What research methods did the researchers use in this project?

Answer: Narrative interviews (three interviews with each participant mother) and psychoanalytically informed observation.

The *Becoming a Mother* study used two psychoanalytically-informed methods (interview and observation), each with two components (in the first case, the reflexive field notes and in the second an observation seminar). These two methods worked in parallel to develop a multidimensional understanding about the experience of becoming a mother.

- What advantages do you think these researchers gained by interviewing the mothers three times?

Answer: Longitudinal element, updates to the narrative, able to follow up on inconsistencies, unconscious clues and contradictions in the interviews, building trust and rapport.

- What kind of data was created in this study?

Answer: Audio, pen portraits, detailed field notes, interview transcripts and user guides.

- What value does this additional data have?

Discuss: Value of contextual data such as pen portraits and field notes. Audio is not archived - why do you think this is? User guide shows the process through from project conception to final results.

- How did the researchers validate their interpretations of the data?

Answer: Triangulation of the interpretations by discussing the analysis with other members of the research team.

- What did the psychoanalytically informed observation bring to this study?

Discuss: The value of observations

The text in user guide reads:

'Its purpose was to provide perspective on the observer's notes that go beyond her own understandings, to help her digest her observation and therefore make it more meaningful, to provide a preliminary set of ideas about each mother's experience of becoming a mother and to begin to think about themes that apply to sub groups and the full group of mothers. For the researchers, it has allowed insights into changes in motherhood between the interview periods and into how to bring together the two data sets, as well as facilitating interdisciplinary working. The resulting data illuminate the embodied and less conscious aspects of identity processes as well as every day, relational practices during the transition to motherhood.'

## Activity 4: Analysing psychosocial data

Read through *one of the three* transcripts for this collection.

Whilst reading the transcript free associate on the data by writing freely and uninhibitedly on the transcript print out.

Write down:

- Your first impressions of the data, of the interviewee and of her narrative.
-

- Your feelings when reading it. How does the interviewee's story make you feel? How does the way in which the interviewee tell her story make you feel?
- Your reflections on any contradictions, false starts and inconsistencies that you might notice.
- What themes can you see in the data?

Orientate your analysis based on the themes of the original project themes (i.e. experiences of becoming a mother, family relationships, ethnicity, identity, socio-economic status etc.).

All these questions encourage a holistic style of knowing the data but do not invite the data analyst to close down the meaning of what they have read.

The use of interpretations- plays too easily into people's wish to impose a tidy solution on life experience that is complex and elusive.

Interpretation should not, in our view, be conducted outside such a conceptual frame. We have tended to steer clear of the word 'interpretation' and in many contexts would talk about doing data analysis, instead.

(Wendy Hollway, notes from personal email)

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