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Opportunities and Challenges of Qualitative Research as a Young Researcher

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Opportunities and Challenges of Qualitative Research as a Young Researcher

Alyssa Burton // Music Therapy Student

Claudia Méndez Wright // Sociology PHD Candidate

Erin Hoffmann // Associate Professor of Sociology



A Music Student in Research?

Many Students Struggle to Participate in Research

- Music Therapy Undergraduate
 - Undergraduate Research Fellow
 - Difficult to find opportunities in my college
 - Interest in Immigration
- I had no idea what I was doing!

Finding a Mentor



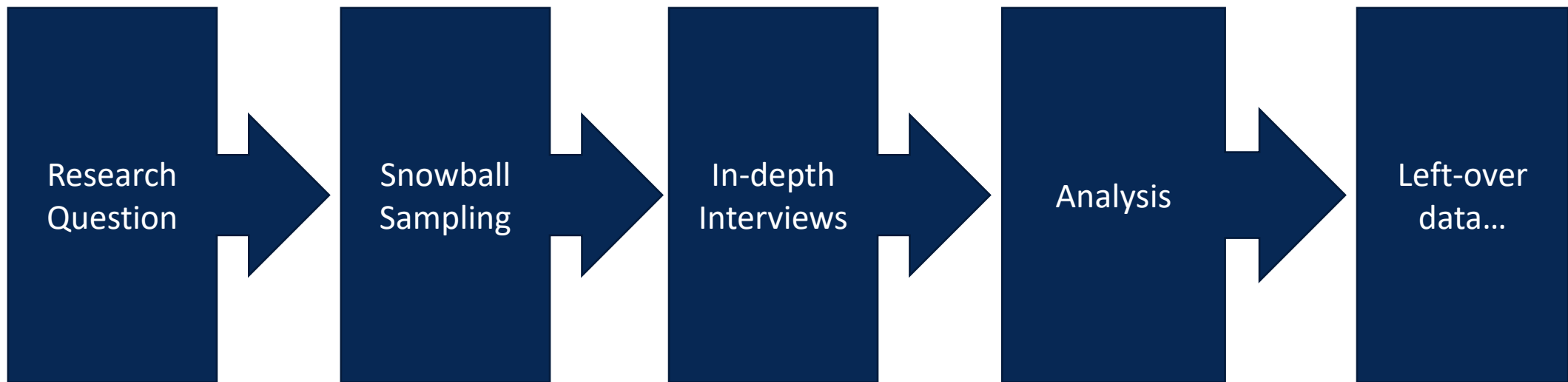
Claudia Méndez Wright



Erin Hofmann

Project Overview

IMMIGRANT INTERVIEWS



Project Overview

IMMIGRANT INTERVIEWS

NEW RESEARCH QUESTION

What role does material culture play in immigrants' establishment of a new home away from "home?"

Project Overview

IMMIGRANT INTERVIEWS

NEW RESEARCH QUESTION

MY ROLE

- Read Interviews
- Code qualitative data in NVivo to answer the new research question

What Coding Looks Like

Automated Insights Sample Project.nvp - NVivo 12 Plus

File Home Import Create Explore Share

Clipboard: Paste, Copy, Merge
Properties, Open, Memo Link, Add To Set, Create As Code, Create As Cases
Explore: Query, Visualize
Coding: Code, Auto Code, Range Code, Uncode
Classification: Case Classification, File Classification
Workspace: Detail View, Sort By, Undock, Navigation View, List View, Find

Name	Files	References
Budget Cut Option	1	2
Progress	1	2
Questions for Resi	1	1

Drag selection here to code to a new node

Background:

UK Local Government have been faced with significant budget cuts from the central government. As of 2015 they are half way through a scheduled 40 per cent cut in funding that commenced in 2011. Councils have been required to increase efficiencies and reduce staff to make these savings, while maintaining services to their communities.

Many Councils are now undergoing public consultation with their residents as they prepare their future budgets where cuts and reductions in services are inevitable.

This project contains three documents relating to the budget cuts public consultation process.

Under pressure - how councils are planning for future cuts and Future funding - initial draft are reports that describe Local Government situation in the UK and give the survey sample data some context.

Budget Consultation Survey is a dataset from a survey that was conducted by a UK Council with its residents in preparation for its annual budget. Residents were asked about the cuts, if they agreed with the Councils budget priorities, and if they thought the council should increase Council tax to help address the funding gap. Residents were also asked two open ended questions asking them if they had any further comments on the Councils budget options, or any suggestions on ways Council could save money.

In Nodes Code At Budget Cut Options (Nodes)

AB 3 Items

Type here to search 42°F 7:19 PM 12/3/2021

What Coding Looks Like

The screenshot displays the NVivo 12 Plus software interface. The top menu bar includes File, Home, Import, Create, Explore, Share, and Document Tools. The Document Tools ribbon contains various options like Memo Link, See Also Link, Zoom, Quick Coding, Layout, Annotations, See Also Links, Relationships, Coding Stripes, Highlight, Code, Code In Vivo, Uncode, Auto Code, Range Code, New Annotation, Annotations, Word Cloud, Explore Diagram, Compare With, Query This Document, Find, and Edit.

The main workspace is divided into two panes. The left pane, titled 'Nodes', contains a table with the following data:

Name	Files	References
Budget Cut Option	1	2
Progress	1	2
Questions for Resi	1	1

The right pane shows a document titled 'Local Government Sample Proj' with a 'Questions for Residents' section. The text in this section is highlighted in yellow and pink, corresponding to the coding nodes. The highlighted text includes:

Background:
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The right pane also features a 'Coding Density' chart showing the distribution of codes across the document. The chart shows three bars: 'Progress' (blue), 'Budget Cut Options' (orange), and 'Questions for Residents' (purple).

The bottom status bar shows '3 Items', 'Codes: 3', 'References: 5', 'Read-Only', and 'Line: 26 Column: 48'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar, system tray, and date/time (7:19 PM, 12/3/2021).

What Coding Looks Like

The screenshot displays the NVivo 12 Plus software interface. The top menu bar includes File, Home, Import, Create, Explore, Share, and Node Tools. The Node Tools ribbon contains various options such as Memo Link, See Also Link, Content, Zoom, Quick Coding, Annotations, See Also Links, Relationships, Coding Stripes, Highlight, Code, Uncode from This Node, Spread Coding, Auto Code, Uncode, New Annotation, Word Cloud, Compare With, Explore Diagram, Query This Node, and Find. The main workspace is divided into several sections:

- Nodes:** A table listing nodes and their associated files and references.
- Local Government Sample Proj:** A section showing a specific node, "Questions for Residents", with a reference to a file: "<Files\\Local Government Sample Project Overview> - 1 reference coded [18.58% Coverage]".
- Reference 1 - 18.58% Coverage:** A text box containing the following content:

Residents were asked about the cuts, if they agreed with the Councils budget priorities, and if they thought the council should increase Council tax to help address the funding gap. Residents were also asked two open ended questions asking them if they had any further comments on the Councils budget options, or any suggestions on ways Council could save money.
- Code At:** A dropdown menu showing "Budget Cut Options (Nodes)".

The bottom status bar indicates 3 items, 1 file, and 1 reference, with an unfiltered view. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar, system tray, and date/time (7:20 PM, 12/3/2021).

Opportunities

Professional

- Future use in my discipline
 - Critical thinking
 - Qualitative research skills for many fields
 - NVivo and Mendeley
- Networking
- Graduate School Applications

Opportunities

Personal

- Connects to my interests
 - Immigration
 - Speaking Spanish
- Discover the realities of research with a mentor
 - Research process
 - Funding

Challenges

- Time
 - Volunteer
 - Bureaucracy
- Personal limitations
 - Learning as I go in an unknown field
 - No body language or vocal tone for interpreting interviews
 - Research question was not the original intent of the interviews

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Contact Info

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Thank you!



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University