

Qualitative Methods in Social Research

INTRODUCTION

Methods in social research are now a common feature of many undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and there is much ongoing discussion and debate across the social science disciplines which feeds into the development of new approaches to social research. This bibliography is intended as an introductory guide to some of the main qualitative approaches to social research. The focus is on practical methods, although since it is often difficult to disentangle these methods from their theoretical background, users of this guide will find that much of the literature covers the theory behind these methods as well as practical guides to their use.



The majority of the books in this guide were written with postgraduate and academic researchers in mind, but many are also commonly featured on undergraduate reading lists in the UK. The methods and titles represented here are used across many social science disciplines and will be relevant to a diverse range of researchers in areas such as Anthropology, Sociology, Politics, Educational Research, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Development Studies, Socio-Legal Studies and Organisation and Management Studies. As well as being useful to researchers with affiliations to higher education institutions, this guide is intended to appeal to researchers who work for local and national government, think-tanks, NGOs and charities.

The first section of the bibliography provides an introductory guide to general materials on social research methods including information on relevant associations and teaching materials. This section includes online sources and introductory books and covers a range of issues in research design including guidelines on research ethics. There is a quick guide to six free and peer-reviewed online journals in the area of social research methods. This section is intended to be of use to those who are embarking on a social research project for the first time and to those who wish to familiarise themselves with key concepts in social science research methods.

The main section of this bibliography is primarily organised by qualitative method. A brief introduction to each method has been provided which might be particularly useful to those new to social science research. While there is often some overlap between the methods outlined, nine key approaches have been identified and key books

(monographs) for each of these approaches have been listed with their British Library shelfmark.

It is worth noting that 'DS shelfmark' refers to items that are held at the Library's store in Yorkshire and will take 48 hours to reach the Reading Rooms at the St Pancras site. This material is also available through inter-library loan. For more information please visit our [document supply services](#) webpage at the following address:

<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/atyourdesk/docsupply>

Some London collection material is also stored at different sites in London, although for the vast majority of the material on this list this will not be the case. Should you require further information about the whereabouts of particular items, please contact the Social Science reference team at the email address indicated below.

The final section of the bibliography complements the preceding two sections by offering a section of indicative journal articles pertaining to qualitative research methods. The journal articles have been selected for their broad appeal as background reading to those wishing to familiarise themselves with key issues in qualitative research. This section is also intended to direct readers towards some of the key journals in this area. Electronic full-text versions of many of these journals are available in the Reading Rooms. These are indicated with a hyperlink.

We are always interested in learning more about externally produced web resources that may be useful to social science researchers. If there are pages that you think are missing from this list, or have any further comments about this guide, you can contact a member of the Social Science team at the following email address: social-sciences@bl.uk.

This bibliography has been compiled by Sarah Evans, Content Specialist in Social Science at the British Library.

Please note that the British Library neither endorses, nor can be held responsible for, any information provided by external websites or publications listed herein.

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1. INTRODUCTORY RESOURCES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

1.1 Introductory and general websites

Research methods knowledge database

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net>

A web based **text book** on research methods aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students. Produced by Cornell University in the United States.

Resource for methods in evaluation in social research

<http://gsociology.icaap.org/methods/>

Extensive site providing information on **how to evaluate** research. This site was created by a US academic in Sociology, Dr Gene Shackman. Information about his background and credentials are available via the site.

Research methods and statistics arena

<http://www.researchmethodsarena.com/resources/resources.asp>

An up-to-date guide to books and journals in research methods. Includes **free datasets** for SPSS. This site was compiled by Psychology Press, an *Informa* brand. It therefore

focuses on *Informa* products.

Intute tutorial in research methods

<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/he/tutorial/social-research-methods>

A **tutorial** on using the internet as a resource on social research methods. Funded by JISC and created by academics, tutors and librarians.

Practical exemplars for the analysis of surveys

<http://www2.napier.ac.uk/depts/fhls/peas/index.htm>

In depth **guide to analysing surveys** with practical examples and resources on theory. This site is produced as a collaboration between Napier University in Edinburgh and the National Centre for Social Research.

1.2 Associations, programmes and research units

Social Research Association

<http://www.the-sra.org.uk/>

A **cross-sector organisation** which focuses on providing a forum for information sharing about social research and research methods.

Research Methods: an ESRC programme

<http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/>

An **academic programme** aimed at improving methodological quality. Includes information about courses, conferences, working papers and resources.

Doing Research

<http://www.doingresearch.org>

A **research training consortium** funded by HEFCE with the aim of developing training materials.

Doing Political Research

<http://www.doingresearch.org/politics/>

A **guide** to one of the key resources developed by the above consortium with a free demo for a resource DVD.

Methodology Institute at LSE

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/methodologyInstitute>

Courses and seminars in research methods and a useful list of LSE academics with interest in this area.

ESRC

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/index.aspx>

The Economic and Social Research Council. Includes the guidelines for [1+3 postgraduate training](#) in social research methods and details of approved teaching institutions.

1.3 Data analysis: online manuals and guides to software packages

NUD.IST 4 classic guide

<http://kerlins.net/bobbi/research/nudist>

NUD.IST is a **computer-aided qualitative data analysis** (CAQDA) package. This website provides an introductory guide to those new to the package.

ATLAS.TI product site

<http://www.atlasti.com/index.html>

ATLAS.TI is also a CAQDA. This developer site includes video guides and **instructive tutorials** and offers a free trial.

SPSS product site

<http://www.spss.com/statistics>

The product site for SPSS a **statistical data management** and analysis package. Includes free demo.

UCLA SPSS resource site

<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/spss>

Extensive **online guides and classes** in using SPSS produced by the University of California in the US.

Quantitative data analysis with SPSS 14,15,16

<http://www.psypress.com/brymancramer/datasets>

An online guide produced by the academic authors, [Alan Bryman and Duncan Cramer](#), to be used in conjunction with their book. The site provides **datasets** to be used as learning tools.

1.4 Online bibliographies and reading Lists (external)

Online Qualitative Data Analysis

<http://onlineqda.hud.ac.uk>

Extensive and **current list** of journal articles, books and online resources organised by research method. Suitable for postgraduate researchers and academics.

A limited bibliography on research methods

<http://www.runet.edu/~sigcse/resources/biblio.html>

A useful **introductory bibliography** compiled by an academic at Radford University (US).

A short bibliography on qualitative methods

<http://ocw.mit.edu/NR/rdonlyres/Anthropology/21A-112Fall2003/472D8C1D-1F68-4477-9A8D-635DD4CCCD23/0/biblio.pdf>

An introductory bibliography on **qualitative methods** compiled by an academic at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US).

A reading list for survey research methods

http://www.sociology.ox.ac.uk/people/SRM_reading_list.pdfhttp://www.sociology.ox.ac.uk/people/SRM_reading_list.pdf

A reading list for **undergraduate and postgraduate students** compiled by an academic at the University of Oxford.

A reading list for social research methods

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/courses/undergraduatemodules/ce204researchmethods>

An **undergraduate reading list** compiled by an academic at Warwick University.

1.5 Free online journals

Social Research Update

<http://sru.soc.surrey.ac.uk/>

A peer-reviewed journal published quarterly in the UK by the University of Surrey. The journal covers a number of the key issues in qualitative research methods and also covers some areas of quantitative research. The journal may be particularly relevant to sociologists, criminologists and health and education researchers.

International Journal of Qualitative Methods

<http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/IJQM/index>

This is a peer-reviewed journal published in Canada which focuses on the development of qualitative methods in social research. It may be particularly relevant to those interested research issues pertaining to ethnographic methods, feminist research and discourse analysis in the disciplines of sociology, criminology, gender studies, education research and social anthropology.

Qualitative Research Journal

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=35>

This is a peer-reviewed journal published in Australia. As well as covering the key areas in qualitative and interdisciplinary methodologies it includes articles on teaching qualitative research methods. Its main focus is the areas of sociology, criminology, education research and social anthropology.

Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis in Social Sciences

<http://www.qass.org.uk/>

This is a peer-reviewed journal published in the UK. Its primary disciplines are economics, finance and econometrics but it also includes contributions from mathematics and statistics.

Forum: Qualitative Social Research (Sozialforschung)/Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung

<http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/index>

This is a peer-reviewed international journal published in German, English and Spanish. It aims to promote discussion among qualitative researchers from different countries and across the social science disciplines.

Survey Research Methods

<http://w4.ub.uni-konstanz.de/srm/>

This is a peer-reviewed journal and the official journal of the [European Survey Research Association](#). The journal publishes articles which discuss methodological issues relating to the use of survey data, including articles about: survey design, sample design, question and questionnaire design, data collection, data processing, coding and editing, imputation, weighting and survey data analysis methods.

1.6 Ethical guidelines

BSA Ethical Guidelines

<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/equality/Statement+Ethical+Practice.htm>

Statement of ethical practice for the **British Sociological Association**.

SRA Ethical Guidelines

<http://www.the-sra.org.uk/ethical.htm>

The ethical guidelines for the **Social Research Association** (available to download).

MRS Code of Conduct

<http://www.marketresearch.org.uk/standards/codeconduct.htm>

Code of conduct for the **Market Research Society** (available to download).

BPS Code of Conduct

http://www.bps.org.uk/the-society/code-of-conduct/code-of-conduct_home.cfm

Code of conduct and ethical guidelines for the **British Psychological Association** (available to download).

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

<http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/>

An association supported by **Indiana University** with the aim of promoting and facilitating ethical approaches in research. Includes useful links and publications.

MRA Ethical Guidelines

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/PolicyGuidance/EthicsAndGovernance/index.htm>

The ethical codes of the **Medical Research Council**.

NSPCC: Ethical issues in research with children

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/ReadingLists/ethicalissuesinresearch_wda55732.html

A useful bibliography and guides to carrying out research with children by the **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**.

1.7 General and introductory monographs

Devine, Fiona. & Heath. Sue. **Sociological research methods in practice**
MacMillan, 1999

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2002.a.23642

DS shelfmark: 99/27139

Flick, Uwe. (ed.) **The Sage qualitative research kit. Vol 1 – 8**

Sage, 2007

London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2004.a.21598

DS shelfmark: m07/.31948 vol. 1; m07/.31947 vol. 2; m07/.31946 vol. 3; m07/.31945 vol.4; m07/.31944 vol. 5; m07/.31943 vol. 6; m07/.31942 vol. 7; m07/.31935 vol. 8

Gilbert, Nigel. (ed.) **Researching social life**

Sage, 1993

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1993.b.858

Hammersley, Martyn. **The dilemma of the qualitative method: Herbert Blummer and the Chicago School**

Routledge, 1989

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1989.a.8357

DS shelfmark: 89/20448

Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy. & Leavy, Patricia. **The Practice of Qualitative Research**

Sage, 2006

London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2006.a.2606

DS shelfmark: m05/.35912

May, Tim. **Social research: issues, methods and process**

Open University Press, 2001

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2003.a.13530

Morse, Janice. **Critical issues in qualitative research.**

Sage, 1994

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1994.a.759

Neuman, William. **Basics of social research: qualitative and quantitative approaches**
Pearson, Allen and Bacon, 2007
London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS301.072
DS shelfmark: m07/.35338

Ruane, Janet M. **Essentials of Research Methods: A Guide to Social Science Research.**
Blackwell, 2004
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2006.a.3039
DS shelfmark: m04/29887

Silverman, David. **Qualitative methodology and sociology: describing the social world**
Gower, c1985
London reference collections shelfmarks: X.529/71240; X.529/71241
DS shelfmark: 85/13632

Silverman, David. **Doing qualitative research: a practical handbook (2nd edition)**
Sage, 2005
London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS300.72
DS shelfmark: m05/.10036

Taylor, Steven. J. **Introduction to qualitative research methods: a guidebook and resource**
Wiley, 1998
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2001.a.6894
DS shelfmark: 98/22920

2. METHOD-SPECIFIC MONOGRAPHS

2.1 Ethnography

The ethnographic method is one which can be applied to the study of a group of people who are connected by shared interests, identity and/or culture. In general terms it involves the researcher 'immersing' themselves in the culture or social field of interest ('in the field') and spending a sustained period of time with the subjects of their research in order to observe and document - as objectively as possible - their patterns of communication, the meaning they attach to particular cultural habits and the structure of their social relationships. It is now considered important by proponents of ethnographic research that the lives of the research subjects are interpreted - as far as possible - in their own terms (although the possibility for this has been subject to much debate). Ethnographic methods are widely used by social anthropologists but have been adapted by sociologists to include the study of micro-groups with their own society of origin. For example, ethnographies have been carried out in particular work environments and with sub-cultural and criminalised groups.

Bailey, Carol A. **A guide to qualitative field research**
Pine Forge, c2000

London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS300.723

Burgess, Robert. G. **Field Research: a sourcebook and field manual**

Allen & Unwin, 1982

London reference collections shelfmark: X.0529/696(4)

DS shelfmark: 3425.303000 no. 4

Davies, Charlotte. **Reflexive ethnography: a guide to researching selves and others**

Routledge, 1999

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2002.a.9915

Fetterman, David. **Ethnography: step by step**

Sage, 1998

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1999.a.249

Geertz, Clifford. **The interpretation of cultures**

Fontana, 1993 (1973)

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1994.a.1675

DS shelfmark: m02/20671

Hammersley, Martyn & Atkinson, Paul. **Ethnography: principles in practice**

Tavistock, 1983

London reference collections shelfmarks: YK.1987.a.2032; X.529/58832

Johnson, J.M. **Doing field research**

Collier MacMillan, 1978

London reference collections shelfmark: X.519/28213

O'Reilly, Karen. **Ethnographic Methods**

Routledge, 2005

London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS305.8001

DS shelfmark: m04/.35094

Thomas, Jim. **Doing critical ethnography**

Sage, 1993

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1993.a.787

Warren, Carol. A.B. & Hackney, Jennifer, K. (eds.) **Gender issues in ethnography**

Sage, 2000

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2001.a.10581

2.2 Interviewing

Interviewing as a means of producing qualitative data includes a range of interview methods, sometimes categorised as 'structured', 'semi-structured' and 'unstructured' interviews. Qualitative interview techniques are generally used by social scientists in

order to gather information about a particular topic in a way that allows the collection of 'rich' and detailed data. Here it is usually considered the aim of the researcher to encourage the respondent to talk about a topic in a 'fluid-but-guided' rather than rigid way, such that potentially important connections between different aspects of their life are not obscured. There has been significant debate about the kind of information it is possible to elicit from a respondent during an interview, and about the impact of researcher-respondent power relationships, which have been seen to have an impact on the ways in which qualitative interviews are approached and on the validity attributed to the data collected. Interviews are often used in combination with other research methods, such as participant observation or with quantitative methods such as self-completion questionnaires.

Arksey, Hilary. & Knight, Peter. **Interviewing for social scientists: an introductory resource with examples**
Sage, 1999
DS shelfmark: 99/38567

Gubrium Jaber F. & Holstein, James. A. (eds.) **Handbook of Interview Research**
Sage, 2002
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2003.b.2163

Mishler, Elliot G. **Research interviewing: context and narrative**
Harvard University Press, 1986
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.1991.a.6776

Rubin, Herbert. J. **Qualitative interviewing: the art of hearing data**
Sage, c2005
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2006.a.6751
DS shelfmark: m04/.37819

Wengraf, Tom. **Qualitative research interviewing: biographic narrative and semi-structured methods**
Sage, 2001
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2003.a.13524

2.3 Focus Groups

Focus groups include group interviews and discussion forums organised around a specific topic with a sub-set of the population of interest to the social researcher. The aim of a focus group is to provide an arena in which members of the population of interest can discuss and describe aspects of their attitudes, beliefs and culture in a way that is guided by the researcher. Certain research topics benefit from the use of focus groups since they enable progressive dialogue between respondents and may highlight areas of interest that can be overlooked in a one-to-one interview. Focus groups are considered particularly useful in health research, research with young people and in market research. They are also well-used in pilot studies which often form part of research design.

Bloor, Michael. (ed.) **Focus groups in social research**
Sage, 2000
London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS.300.72
DS shelfmark: m00/46597

Krueger, Richard A. **Developing questions for focus groups**
Sage, 1998
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2002.b.53
DS shelfmark: q97/26879

Litosseliti, Lia. **Using focus groups in research**
Continuum, c2003
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2005.a.17078
DS shelfmark: m04/23277

Morgan, David L. **Focus groups as qualitative research**
Sage, c1997
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2001.a.21248

Stewart, David. & Shamdasani, Prem N. **Focus groups: theory and practice**
Sage, 1990
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.1991.a.9666

2.4 Observation

Methods of observation include overt/covert participant observation and various forms of non-participant observation. They are generally considered to be a core component of the ethnographic method (also refer to section 2.1). The most commonly used method of observation in contemporary social research is overt participant observation, in which the subjects of interest to the researcher are made aware of the researcher's aims and purpose before the period of participant observation commences. This kind of research requires the researcher to immerse themselves in the activities and lives of their research subjects, while at the same time maintaining the kind of professional distance that allows adequate and objective recording of data. Much of the data the researcher collects in this way will be recorded in a field-journal and may take the form of notes about conversations, activities and use of space. Covert participant observation has been criticised by some for being ethically unsound, although it has been demonstrated to be a successful means for gaining insight about social fields to which the researcher would not normally have access; for instance, in research with criminal groups.

Bulmer, Michael. (ed.) **Social research ethics: an examination of the merits of covert participant observation**
MacMillan, 1982
London reference collections shelfmark: X.529/47659
DS shelfmark: 82/07947; 82/11809

DeWalt, Kathleen Musante. & DeWalt, Billie R. **Participant observation: a guide for fieldworkers**

AltaMira Press, 2002

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2005.a.9720

DS shelfmark: m02/14089

Hobbs, Dick. & Wright, Richard. (eds.) **The Sage handbook of fieldwork**

Sage, 2006

London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2007.b.1486

DS shelfmark: m06/.12589

Lofland, John. **Analyzing social settings: a guide to qualitative observation and analysis (4th Edition)**

Wadsworth, 2006

DS shelfmark: m05/.32065

Schatzman, Leonard. & Strauss, Anselm. L. **Field research: strategies for a natural sociology**

Prentice-Hall, 1973

London reference collections shelfmark: X.519/15885

DS shelfmark: 73/0508

2.5 Oral history

Adopted as a means of recording the aspects of social life that are often omitted from the conventional (written) historical record, oral history has its roots in anthropology, sociology and social history. In practical terms oral history collects the spoken accounts and personal reflections of particular events, places and times through recorded interviews. Oral historians, like those interested in narrative and narrative identity, often follow a life history or life story approach to collecting material and as such attempt to account for the relation between a person's biography and a given historical event or account. Oral historians tend to have a particular interest in oral sources for what they reveal about history and memory. Oral histories, therefore, are not regarded straightforwardly as representations of the past (with an emphasis on their veracity), but as a means of examining how individual narratives are socially and culturally constituted as part of an on-going explanatory and relational process. The importance of the oral tradition as a means of creating and maintaining shared memories, understandings and identities informs the approach of oral historians who aim to encourage natural narratives from their respondents.

Bertaux, Daniel. & Thompson, Paul. **Between Generations: family models, myths and memories**

Transaction, 2005

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2005.a.4773

DS shelfmark: m06/.32548

Finnegan, Ruth. **Oral traditions and the verbal arts: a guide to research practices**
Routledge, 1992.
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1992.a.334
DS shelfmark: 1738.578000

Frische, Micheal. **A shared authority: essays on the craft and meaning of public history**
State of New York University Press, 1990
London open access collections shelfmark: HUS 907.2
DS shelfmark: 90/21809

Gluck, Sherna Berger & Patai, Daphne. (eds.) **Women's Words: the feminist practice of oral history**
Routledge, 1991
London open access collections shelfmark: HUS 920.72
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1992.a.1345
DS shelfmark: 91/15619

Perks, Rob & Thomson, Alistair. (eds.) **The oral history reader**
Routledge, 2006
London open access reference collections shelfmark: HUS 907.22
London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2007.b.2866
DS shelfmark: m06/.2361

Thompson, Paul. **The voice of the past**
Oxford University Press, 2000
London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2000.a.4534
DS shelfmark: m00/20779

Yow, Valerie Raleigh. **Recording Oral History: a practical guide for social scientists**
AltaMira Press, c2005
London open access collections shelfmark: HUS 907.22
DS shelfmark: m06/.19211

2.6 Narrative method

Narrative research is an interpretative method which can be applied to the analysis of any form of human story/script and therefore encompasses the interpretation of many different forms of data, including: the analysis of conversations, interviews and oral histories; the analysis of large scale social and cultural narratives ('meta-narratives' or 'grand narratives') and; the analysis of stories and folklore. Narrative methods examine the connection between the past, the present and the future in the way that social (and personal) stories are told, retold and remembered. They promote an examination of the role of memory (both personal and social) in the life of a story and encourage the researcher to reflect upon the ways in which social actors use social and cultural stories to understand their own identity and their relationships to others.

Atkinson, Paul. & Delamont, Sara. (eds.) **Narrative methods. Vol. 1 – 4**

Sage, 2006

London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS300.72

DS shelfmarks: m06/.26324 vol.1; m06/.26325 vol.2; m06/.26326 vol.3; m06/.26327 vol.4

Akinson, Robert. **The life story interview**

Sage, c1998

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1999.a.454

Berger, Ronald. J & Quinney, Richard. (eds.) **Storytelling sociology: narrative as social enquiry**

Lynne Rienner, 2005

London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS301.01

DS shelfmark: m04/.36190

Clandinin, D. Jean. **Handbook of narrative inquiry: mapping a methodology**

Sage, 2007

London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2007.b.2253

DS shelfmark: m07/.25531

Elliot, Jane. **Using narrative in social research**

Sage, 2005

London open access collections shelfmark: YC.2006.16503

DS shelfmark: m05/.25169

Hollway, Wendy. & Jefferson. Tony. **Doing qualitative research differently: free association, narrative and the interview method**

Sage, 2000

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2000.a.6950

DS shelfmark: m00/32028

Plummer, Ken. **Documents of life: an introduction to the problems and literature of a humanistic method**

George Allen & Unwin, 1983

DS shelfmark: 3425.30300 v 7

Reissman, Catherine K. **Narrative analysis**

Sage, c1993

London open access collections shelfmark: YK.1994.a.2022

2.7 Auto/biography

Auto/biography as an approach to research is connected to the narrative method in that it encourages the researcher to reflect upon their own propensity to create stories about their life and about the research that they are undertaking. It further posits that this research should be seen as a tangible feature of the life of the researcher rather than

merely an objective and detached project. The researcher is therefore asked to question the reasons for choosing a particular area of study, and to critically examine the social, cultural and personal stories that connect them to the research they are undertaking. This approach suggests that the subjectivity of the researcher and their knowledge as always 'situated' should be at the forefront of the researcher's mind throughout the research and writing process. As an approach to social research, this method has been largely advocated by feminist researchers and is connected to feminist research methodologies.

Cosslett, Tess., Lury, Celia. & Summerfield, Penny. **Feminism and autobiography: texts, theories and methods.**

Routledge, 2000

London reference collections shelfmark: YC. 2001.a.11541

Evans, Mary. **Missing persons: the impossibility of auto/biography**

Routledge, 1998

DS shelfmark: 99/14391

Letherby, Gayle. **Auto/biographical reflections or 'how who we are affects what we know'** Occasional paper, Personal narratives research group

The University of Leeds, 2005

DS shelfmark: 6224.223500 no.3

Stanley, Liz. **The auto/biographical I**

Manchester University Press, 1992

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.1992.a.1773

DS shelfmark: 92/12520

2.8 Discourse/textual analysis

Discourse analysis is a broad analytical approach which is concerned with deconstructing spoken and written language in order to examine its relationship to the prominent ideologies and social norms of a given culture and/or society. It takes at its core the notion that language is neither passive nor static and as such can be regarded as both reflecting and constituting social objects and symbols. Discourse analysis therefore attempts to locate particular discursive practices within social, cultural and historical contexts in order to uncover the social relations of power that may be implicated by them. For example, discourse analysis has been used by the social philosopher Judith Butler to demonstrate the relationship between the social construction of gender and ways of speaking/ways of doing.

Barker, Chris. **Cultural studies and discourse analysis: a dialogue on language and identity**

Sage, 2001

London open access collections shelfmark: SPIS306.44

Lazar, Michelle M. (ed.) **Feminist critical discourse analysis: gender, power and ideology in discourse**

Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

London reference collections shelfmark: YC. 2006.a.9599

Mckee, Alan. **Textual Analysis: A Beginners Guide**

Sage, 2003

London reference collections shelfmark: YK.2005.a.17099

DS collections: m03/36126

Phillips, Nelson. & Hardy, Cynthia. **Discourse analysis: investigating process of social construction**

Sage, 2002

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2003.a.3968

Weiss, Gilbert. & Wodak, Ruth. (eds.) **Critical discourse analysis: theory and interdisciplinarity**

Palgrave Macmillan, 2003

London reference collections shelfmark: YC.2004.a.501

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