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Anthro. Methods:

Interview Commentary

The interview setting changed a little from what I had originally intended. I was unaware that I needed to actually book the space, and found out that day that the space originally intended was being used for other things. Thus, I changed the interview location to a room in my own apartment. It was a comfortable space, although perhaps not as quiet as I would have liked. My informant seemed comfortable enough, although things were a little awkward at first. I was a bit nervous, and I think she was a little put off by being recorded. Once the interview was under way, however, we both relaxed a little and the interview went pretty well. The time was good for both of us, but if possible I would have gone to the place on which I had originally planned to hold the interview.

Although the interview began with some awkward moments, it was overall very informative and went well. She seemed satisfied with her answers, and I was pleased to get so much insight and information from the questions that I asked. After listening to the record, I realized that my phrasing and my deliverance of the questions really needed some work. I was nervous, and my phrasing showed it. Unfortunately I do not think they were as clear and concise as they should have been. She didn’t really seem fazed by this, however, and only needed clarification on one or two questions. I think perhaps she saw a couple of my questions as repetitive because she gave similar answers for a couple of them. This could have, however, been attributed to her own unpreparedness to answer some of the questions that may have caught her off guard since some required deeper reflection of herself.

The interview was productive and informative, and provided me with a greater insight into the workings of the group, how it functions and why, and greater insight on individual positions, responsibilities, and motivations. In terms of my own behavior, I really would have thought more on how I would phrase questions. I think in hindsight I was trying to make sure that her answers and my questions flowed well and created a cohesive interview. Instead, it came out looking like I was unsure of how to phrase my own questions. I was distracted by the need to be totally aware of both her responses as well as my own behavior, responses, and questions (and the interviewing techniques). While I tried to incorporate some (for example, affirmations, encouragement without leading, expansion, body language, etc), I had trouble focusing on doing all these at once, and it seemed to have shown in the interview and recording.

The questionnaire and interview preparation guide was really helpful because it kept me on track with the questions I needed to ask. However, I was also focused on trying to make sure that the questions and responses flowed nicely that the actual following of the guide didn’t really work. I had intended to follow it strictly, and when this didn’t happen, I became slightly less organized and it came off as being disjointed and unorganized.

Despite these shortfalls, the interview as a whole was successful because I really did gain a lot of insight that was personal to my informant and which gave me more information on the group as a whole and its connections with the office and the individuals with which it is incorporated. My informant did not really tell me anything that was specifically surprising, but it did give me further insight which I doubt I could have gained through any other research methodology.