

Interviewing Exercise

ANTH/SOC 416/516

Partner with someone in our class, but whom you do not know, and then, alternating your roles, interview each other. Spend approximately **30-35 minutes** doing each other's interview (if you need more time, certainly use it, per the permission of the interviewee).

Overarching Research Question: How did you get interested in pursuing the profession of Anthropology or Sociology?

Consider your main question, and how best to access the information. **Drill down** in the interviewing to identify an event, a person, a circumstance, etc. that best reflects how this interest developed.

Also consider that the information you are soliciting is a part of someone's larger **life-history story** of themselves, and try to gather that information that would contextualize and place this specific information in its larger meaningful story.

And finally, try to elicit **specific events** and **stories** that illustrate the significance ingrained in the main question. Thus consider how you want to present and re-tell this person's story and how he or she got interested in Anthropology or Sociology.

Use a **semi-structured interview technique** (not structured, nor unstructured). Demonstrate effective use of **closed-ended questions** and **open-ended questions**. Also effectively use **follow-up questions** and **silent probe questions** (as the interview unfolds), that naturally evolve out of the interview.

You can write down your questions (including follow-up questions), as well as a **terse outline** of the responses your interviewee provides to your questions, e.g., **key words or phrases**. Once away from the interview situation and a quiet location, go back over your notes and develop them more fully in a written format, adding detail and the remembered words and stories actually used by your interviewee. You'll need this information and these stories later this semester.