

Midwives supporting and facilitating women's alternative birthing decisions in the UK- A feminist narrative inquiry.

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Choice/autonomy

Rhetoric vs reality

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 45 midwives
 Across the UK
 Across all practice settings
 Self-written narrative only (n=2)
 Self-written narrative and
 interview only (n=21)
 Interview only (n=22)
 Oral data (n=65)



Wider discourses:
 Medicalisation
 Institutionalisation
 Risk
 Litigation
 Governance

Midwives' role

**Feminist
 pragmatism**



Professional

Theoretically incompatible

What happened/
situation/outcome.

Sense-making: why,
motivations, beliefs etc.

Experience of practice
within sociocultural
context.

Event-centred
Narrative as external expression of events
Narrative as relatively constant
Focus on language
Structural micro-analysis



What happened?
What did the midwife do?
How did the event unfold?
What prompted the midwife to act?
What was the lived experience from the midwife's perspective?

Experience-centred
Narrative as representation of human storied lives
Narrative revealing identity, sense/meaning-making
Temporal phenomenological analysis



Why did the midwife do it (motivations)?
What (if any) meanings does the midwife ascribe to this event/way of practicing?

Culturally-centred
Narrative as production/ performative
Narrative co-constructed, subject to change
Narrative as cultural representations
Less focus on temporality or coherence
Array of analytical strategies



What does this reveal about her positioning and its multiplicities?
What influence/or what does she reveal about her immediate socio-cultural context where the experiences took place?
What does this reveal about the wider socio-cultural and political context?
What role did I play in the construction of the narrative?
What role did the context of the interview play in the construction of the narrative?
Understanding the performative elements?

Other considerations

- ▶ Participant concerns – being identified
- ▶ Women in the stories did not consent
- ▶ Large data set
- ▶ Big vs small stories
- ▶ Fragment the data
- ▶ Decontextualised
- ▶ Less detail
- ▶ Employ big and small stories specifically



Ongoing decision-making

Options

Sequential approach

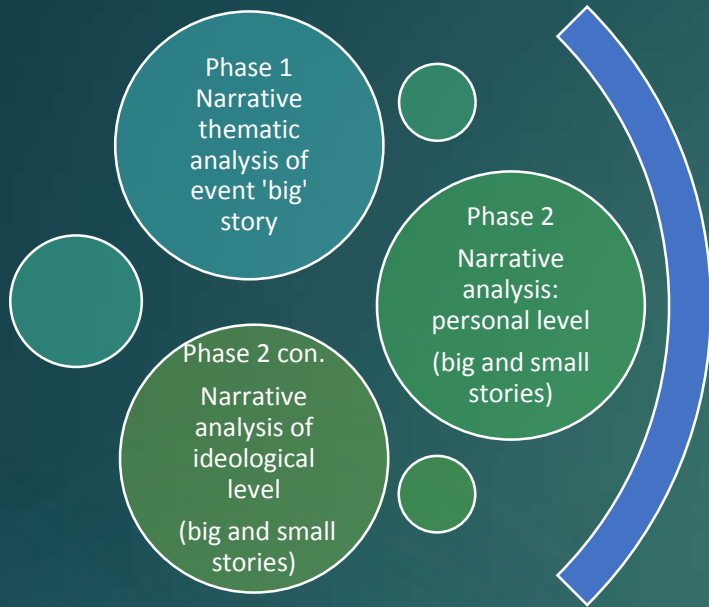
- ▶ Simons, Lathlean et al. (2008)
- ▶ To understand both the reality of the participants lives and the construction of the accounts.
- ▶ Two stages of analysis-
- ▶ Narrative thematic analysis across data set.
- ▶ Constructs of 'agency' analysed and reported.

Levels approach

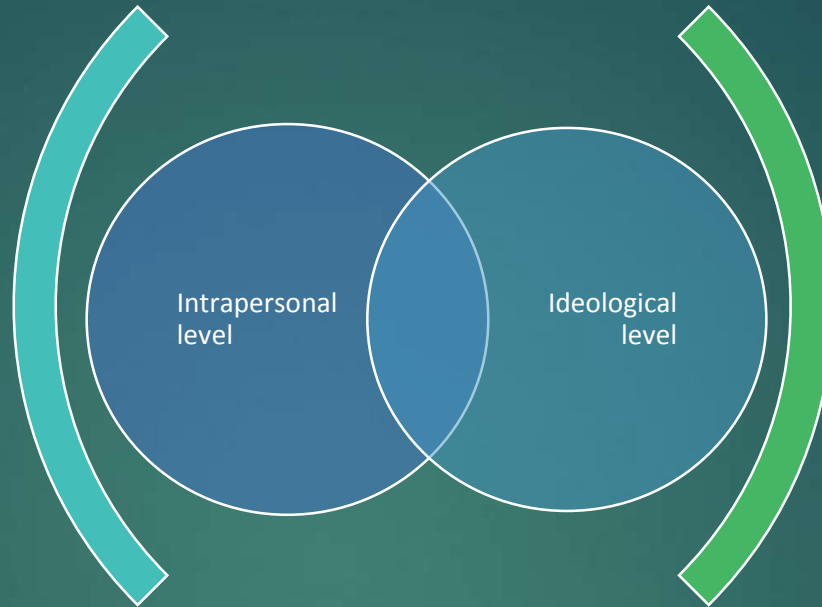
- ▶ Murray (2000)
- ▶ Looks at meanings in different ways/context
- ▶ 4 levels
- ▶ Analyse separately
- ▶ Integrate at end

Murray's Levels of Narrative Analysis, 2000

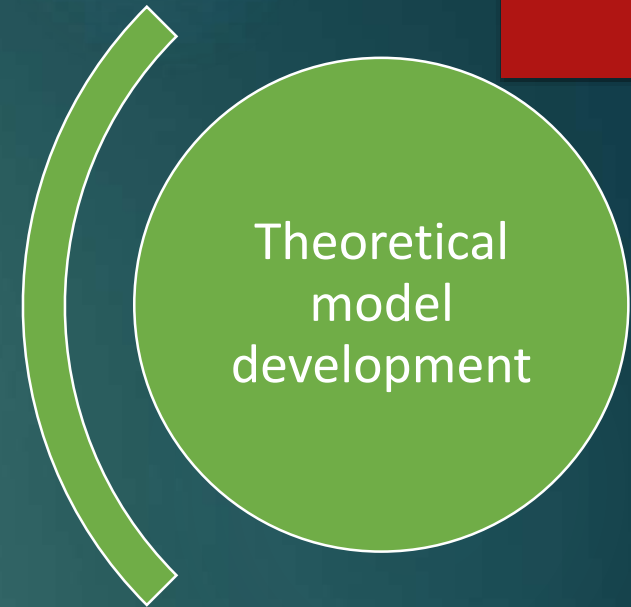
Level	Focus
Intrapersonal	How the individual interprets the world.
Interpersonal	The relationship of interaction between researcher and participant.
Positional	The prior positioning of the participant and/or researcher.
Ideological	The influence of broader sociocultural context upon the participant.



Each phase carried out separately



Integration of these two levels



Theory development



An ongoing
process.....
Watch this space.

