

Good Teachers for Good Researchers.

A case study in Italy

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An example of bad attitude...

- **Interviewer:** “Now, tell me about your relationship with your husband...”
- **Mrs T.:** “What do you mean?”
- **Interviewer:** “You know what I mean. Tell me about your husband: how does he treat you?”

My interviewees

- 29 people, males and females, between 25 and 62 years old
- 11 life stories with academics who personally conduct qualitative interviews and who also use interviewers;
- 8 semi-structured interviews with academics who employ interviewers for their research but not personally conducting interviews;
- 10 semi-structured interviews with interviewers who collaborated with the first or second group of academics.

Three categories

- **Second Choice Qualitative Interviewers**
- **Qualitative–Quantitative Interviewers**
- **Authentic Qualitative Interviewers**

Second Choice Qualitative Interviewers

- **Ms F.:** “... you might find yourself in front of a mythomaniac, or of people who have been in psychological analysis for years, and are therefore veterans, professionals of narration, and you have to pretend you’re interested in what they are saying and you wait for something interesting to be said to you...”
- **Mr P.:** “The point is that I don’t have the ability to do quantitative research, so I started working with qualitative inquiries which are easier ...”

Qualitative–Quantitative Interviewers

- **Mr I.:** “I don’t do them [qualitative interviews] because it takes too much time and I don’t have enough patience... I send my students to collect them and I’m not strict about the conducting strategy, they can do whatever they want as long as they bring back the things we need...”
- **Ms L.:** “I’m a hard methodologist; I must make them talk, take about what I need. If I see that they aren’t telling me what I want, after a while, I ask them directly. I can’t stay there for hours and hours, and possibly for nothing, because, you see, some people are redundant and need many more words than others who tell you the same thing with few words...”

Authentic Qualitative Interviewers

- **Ms B.:** “A good interviewer [...] is a person who is curious about the other, one who can grasp in the other’s talk all the right elements and new subjects to introduce. It is therefore a person who, on the one hand, has a human characteristic, the ability to comprehend the other; and, on the other hand, on the scientific side, has the ability to recognize the areas of meaning of the interviewee...”
- **Mr B.:** “During a face-to-face interview, you must remember that you are both a researcher and a human being. You see, in my opinion, when you rely on the qualitative approach [...] the depth of the discussion is essential, and I’m not referring to research only, but to the human and personal side as well...”

Thank you for your attention

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