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Analysing multiple-perspective- longitudinal interviews (MPQLI)

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Research Context

- Added value of multiple perspective and qualitative longitudinal data
- BUT: lack of methodological reflection particularly on analysis
- Complex, multi-dimensional data requires innovative strategies for analysis and display



Research Objectives

- Systematize analysis for MPQLI
 - » Handling complexity and multi-dimensionality
 - » Increasing traceability and credibility of results
 - » Utilise potential

AIM: analytical framework for MPQLI



Multiple Perspective Qualitative Longitudinal Interviews

Potential

- Detect change over time (*Lewis 2007*)
 - » Narrative change
 - » Participant's reinterpretation
 - » Researcher's reinterpretation
- Explore process of change
- More complex and nuanced understanding
- Existing themes and subthemes
- Dynamics

Challenges

- Size and multidimensionality of data set
- Required resources, i.e. time and commitment
- Absence of analytical closure
- Interpretation of contradictions / inconsistencies (*Sands/Roer-Strier 2006*)
 - » Same story, same meaning
 - » Same story, different interpretation
 - » Missing pieces
 - » Unique accounts
 - » Illuminating



Epistemological background

- **Positivists**
 - » Truth through triangulating perspectives
- **Post-positivists**
 - » Diverging findings valued for a more complex understanding
- **Social constructionists**
 - » Different stories are equally true
 - » Family practices or doing family approaches



Dimensions of qualitative longitudinal analysis

	Individual cases	Across cases
Cross-sectional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case profiles• Provisional codes and categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of coding scheme• Criteria for comparison• Typology
Longitudinal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual trajectories• Provisional categories for change (Timing, structure and causes of change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of change and underlying dynamic• Criteria for longitudinal comparison• Clusters of types of participants, types of change, and process of change



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Dimensions of multiple perspective analysis

	Individual	Relational unit
Within group of similar respondents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory of central themes• Case profiles• Provisional codes and categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory of central issues within a relational unit• Profile of relational unit from two or more perspectives• Understanding interaction between related persons
Between groups of 'types' of respondents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansion of coding scheme• Criteria for comparison• Typology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criteria for comparison• Typology and pattern of relational units



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		Individual	Relational unit
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	Longitudinal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual history Change and process of change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case history of relational unit Dynamics within the relational unit Development of perspectives in comparison

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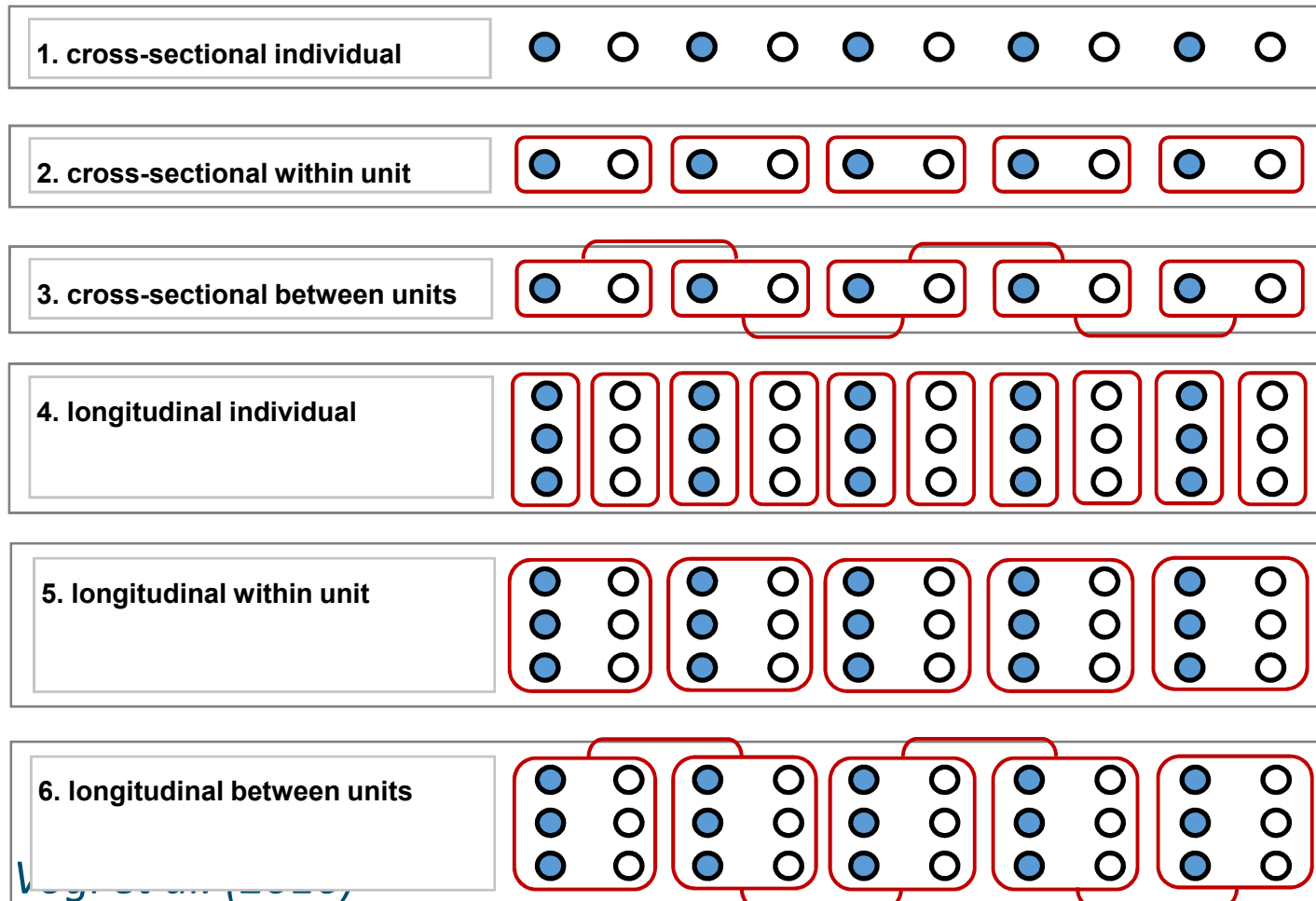


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Six step in the analysis of MPQLI



Conclusion

- MPQLIs are desirable but challenging
 - Systematic methodological reflection is needed for using MPQLI's potential
- We offer a analytical framework along the two main dimensions:
(a) Unit of analysis; (b) Time
- Handle complex data without
- being oppressed by the volume of the data
 - or loosing track



References

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