Qualitative panel data – three waves of interviews with parental couples

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Overview

1. the retention of the interviewees

2. the storage of the data

3. the coding process and the analysis of the transcribed interviews
Qualitative longitudinal research I

- **PLACE:** The Czech Republic – Prague and its suburbs, Pilsen, South Bohemia region
- **TIME:** from October 2011 to now
- **RESEARCH DESIGN:** three waves of semi-structured non-standardized interviews with 16 parental couples (each partner was interviewed separately)
- **DATA COLLECTION:**
  - **First** wave – during pregnancy (October 2011 - April 2012)
  - **Second** wave - when the child was about 18 months old (April 2013 - February 2014)
  - **Third** wave – when the child was three and half to four years old (April 2015 – now)
Qualitative longitudinal research II

RESEARCH SAMPLE: 16 dual-earner couples expecting their first child at the time of the first interview = 32 participants

- 11 married couples; 5 non-married couples
- Completed education of participants: 19 tertiary education, 7 secondary education with School Leaving Examination at age 18 (SLE), 6 vocational secondary education without SLE
- The age of the participants ranged from 21 to 35; the mean age of men was 29.2, the mean age of women was 28.3 at the time of the first interview

- The research sample included a large number of participants with higher educational levels and correspondingly higher incomes

DATA SET: 92 interviews (32 + 32 + 28) + additional data
The retention of the interviewees

Participant recruitment

a) via wide social networks of researchers
b) approaching participants at gym lesson for pregnant women, at gynaecologist waiting rooms, and at paediatric centre

Retention of the sample

a) gifts (for children in 2nd and 3rd wave)
b) sending research results – electronic version of scientific articles by e-mail
c) offering of recordings or transcripts of all interviews (3rd wave)
d) financial reward – to those who were reluctant to give an interview (3rd wave)
Types of the data and storage of the data

QUALITATIVE ARCHIVE – DATA SET OF CZECH PART OF TRANSPARENT PROJECT

I. Transcribed interviews
II. Additional sources

- list of interviewees (basic sociodemographic information at the time of each interview)
- researcher field notes
- case profiles
- pie charts (division of care and work between parents)

All data has been stored in electronic archive.
Organizing transcribed interviews

ATLAS-ti Hermeneutic Unit

Labelling/numbering of interviews:

Example: 16_2_3
Organizing transcribed interviews

Using families to sort interviews and interviewees:

- parental couple (16)
- sex (2)
- educational level (3)
- income level (3)
- individuals (32)
- wave (3)

(number of categories in parenthesis)
Coding process - Applied thematic analysis (Guest, MacQueen, and Namey 2012)

Methodological framework comprising grounded theory, positivism, interpretivism, and phenomenology.

Systematic analytic approach
a) Code development
b) Code application
c) Data reduction

Primary goal is to describe and understand how people feel, think and behave in particular context. Understand the meanings that people give to their lived experiences and social reality (Schutz).
Analytic process - stages similar to grounded theory

1) Read verbatim transcripts
2) Identify possible themes
3) Compare and contrast themes identifying structure between them
4) Add social and spacial context (e.g. social policy circumstances) to the analysis; if needed go back to the data → if possible built theoretical models or just interpret and explain certain aspects of parental experience
The coding process and the analysis

Two main aspects seek expression at each stage of analysis of qualitative longitudinal data (Thompson 2007):

Longitudinality (temporality)
Cross sectionality

Longitudinal dimension privileges the individual case (→ couple)
Cross sectional dimension privileges the social and the spatial context

INTERPLAY OF THE PERSONAL AND THE ECOLOGICAL – USEFULL TOOL FOR (SOCIAL) POLICY RESEARCH (Thompson 2007)
Analyses we have conducted

CROSS SECTIONAL – FIRST ROUND OF INTERVIEWS:
Constructions of motherhood and fatherhood based on anticipation of parental roles and division of care and work between parents. **Analytical tool: comparison/contrast (mothers x fathers)**


Identifying three principal care models to be employed over the first three years of parenthood, and common discrepancies between the plans of the partners. **Analytical tool: couple comparative analysis, intra-couple comparative analysis**

LONGITUDINAL ANALYSES – TWO WAVES OF THE DATA

Comparing plans of pregnant women about their working life with reality after birth of a child. **Analytical tool: comparison**


LONGITUDINAL ANALYSES – TWO WAVES OF THE DATA

Focusing on life changes in personal and professional life brought about by fatherhood. Comparing plans and expectations before birth of a child with subsequent reality. Analysing self reported utterances of fathers, and contrasting them with self reported utterances of mothers.

Analytical tool: comparison/contrast

O. Nešporová (working title): Smooth/Flat Transition to Fatherhood: Self-reported life changes of Czech first-time fathers.

LONGITUDINAL ANALYSES – THREE WAVES OF THE DATA

Coding process has commenced.
References


