

Small stories and micro dramas-
developing existing analytical
frameworks and arriving at new
visual methodologies.

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Aim of presentation:

- Briefly describe my research context.
- Present ‘small stories’ and ‘positioning’ as an analytic framework for exploring identity construction.
- Present ‘micro dramas’ as a means to extend this analytic framework and arrive at a new methodology.

Research Context

The working title of my thesis is:

‘Powers, passages and passengers: student midwives and the construction and performance of professional identities.’

Research Questions

Substantive

Discourse Analysis

Small Stories and Positioning
Analysis

Methodological

Small Stories and Micro-dramas

Mind the gap

Draws from work of Michel Foucault – concerned with power, truth and knowledge and how they are exercised in the discursive construction of selves.

- A discourse is a group of statements which provide a language for talking about (i.e. a way of representing) a particular kind of knowledge.
- Therefore aim of RQ1 is to explore the representational systems (concepts and signs) in the ‘discourses’ of policy, learning and professionalism that lend meaning to the term ‘midwife’.

Aspect of narrative inquiry – unit of analysis
predicated as methodology to explore identity
construction

Bamberg (2010, p13) explains:

Narratives in interaction, the way stories surface in everyday conversation (small stories) as the locus where identities are continuously practiced and tested out. This approach allows us to explore self at the level of the talked-about and at the level of tellership in the here and now of a story-telling situation.

My small story



3 Levels

1. Who are the characters and how are they positioned in the story.
2. How does the speaker / narrator themselves position themselves vis-à-vis his interlocutors?
3. Positions taken vis-à-vis normative discourses and self.

Positioning and History

Level 3 – How do you want to be

My name

Please

Midwife

I am

be

Lecturer

My

Doctoral student

for

my

for

so

I am doing

I am only nearly

in the fourth year so please don't ask

me anything difficult.

of

All talk and no action

- Pilot of process using iPad to record data.
- Equipment used as a representation of different discourses.
- What could be seen in the data collected and could it enhance understanding?
- Behavioural and material aspects of data – exploration of literature did not yield appropriate analytic device for visual data in respect of identity.



Micro dramas



- Fleeting gestures / actions
- Simultaneous with talk – possibly contradictory
- Participant discussed where and when pinard used, but very much held at it at ‘arms-length’ before quickly putting it down
- Held sonicaid for remainder of recording

Micro-dramas – framework for analysis

What can be seen in the image in relation to visual conduct?

In what ways does this conduct / action present a rupture d'évidence?

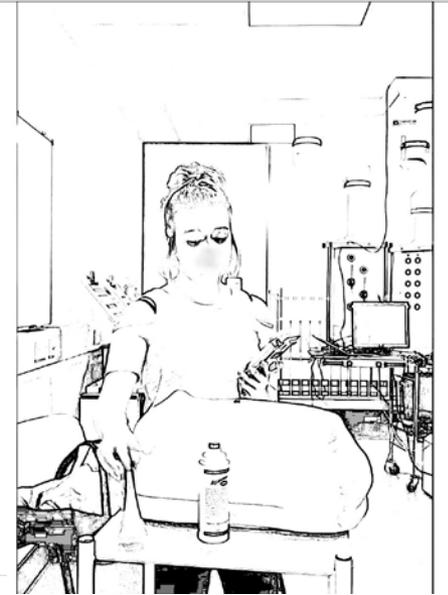
What embodied interactions take place?

How is participant constructed /gestured into being by the space and the actions within?



Rajchman, J. (1988). Foucault's Art of Seeing. *October*, 44, 89–117. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/778276>

Fragment 1. 6 seconds



P2 Picks up pinard

*Keeps at arms
length*

*Rotates, looks in
each end*

Puts down



P2: Just because I don't think we get enough prac-well we don't get enough practice(.)

P2: it's probably something you sho-we should be doing a bit more

And?

- Micro drama is significant – reinforces lack of confidence with the pinard stethoscope that is articulated in the verbal transcription.
- Visual conduct maneuvering between discursive practices in similar way to verbal conduct – isn't the case for all participants
- Additional layer of analysis will further understanding of how discourses are taken up or resisted by practitioners and how this is implicated in the construction and performance of identities.

End