

BSSn4495: Qualitative research in security studies

Archival work and
elite interviews

May 25, 2021

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Agenda

- Dos and don'ts:
 - Archival work
 - Elite interviewing

Archival work: key questions

- What types of sources may help you answer your questions? Where can you find these sources? Are they available?
- How will you navigate the archival system?
- How will you know your evidence once you find it?
- Who wrote the original source and what incentives/disincentives may they have had?

Elite interviews: key questions

- What do you want to learn?
- What types of answers do you think you will get?
- How do you choose people to interview? How do you gain access to them?
- What incentives/disincentives do your interviewees have?
- Are interviews necessary? Can you learn the same from secondary sources?

Research design

- 1) **Research puzzle:** Did something happen that's contrary to theoretical expectations?
- 2) **Research question:** Why did the puzzling thing happen?
- 3) **Literature:** What literature exists on this topic? What does it say in general?
- 4) **Theoretical framework:** What theoretical framework do you want to use to answer the question?
- 5) **Hypotheses:** What is the potential answer to your question?
- 6) **Methodology:** How do you plan to answer your question? E.g., what cases do you want to look at and how will they help you answer the question?
- 7) **Significance:** Why is it important to ask and answer your research question? What contributions to the existing knowledge will your work make?
- 8) **Roadmap:** What structure will your research have?