

PLS 210
Political Science
Research Methods

Week 14:
Qualitative data analysis

The research process

- Literature
- Research questions
- Concepts, theories and hypotheses
- Empirical testing:
 - Operationalization
 - Case selection
 - Data collection
 - *Data analysis*
- —> Inferences

Data analysis

- Lune and Berg:
 - “[A] careful, detailed, systematic examination and interpretation of a particular body of material in an effort to identify patterns, themes, assumptions, and meanings.”



Stages of analysis

- During data collection:
 - Meta-data
 - External and internal criticism
- Following data collection:
 - Coding
 - Data interpretation (—> inference-making)

Coding

- Assignment of raw data into categories
- Purposes of categorization:
 - Pattern identification
 - Bias minimization
- Approaches to coding:
 - ‘Directed’
 - Grounded (‘conventional’)
 - —> *in vivo* coding
 - ‘Summative’

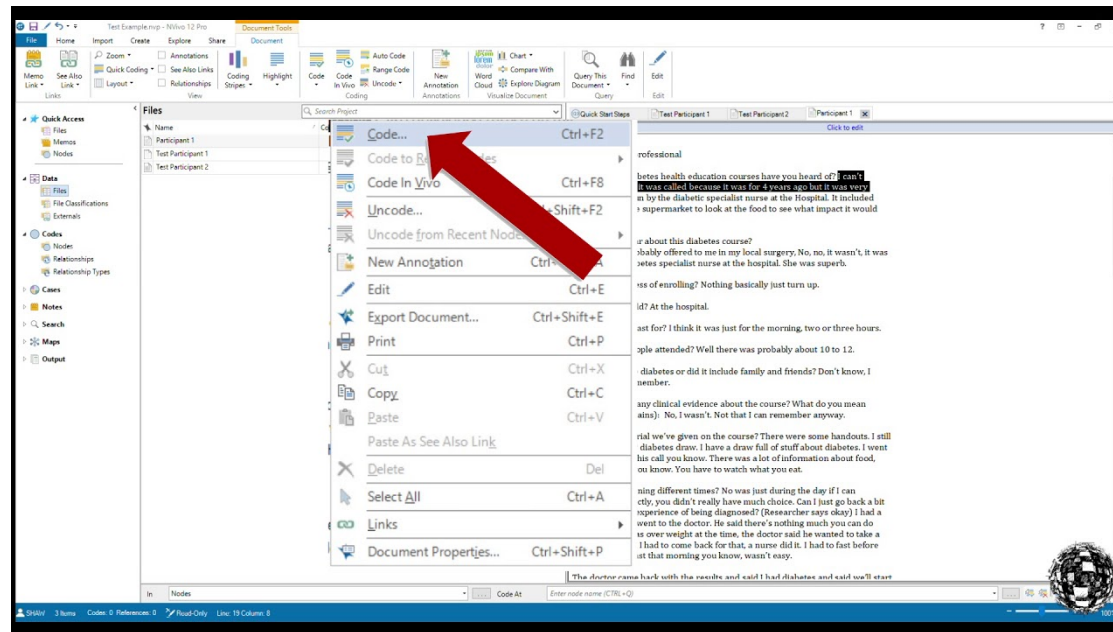


Stages of coding

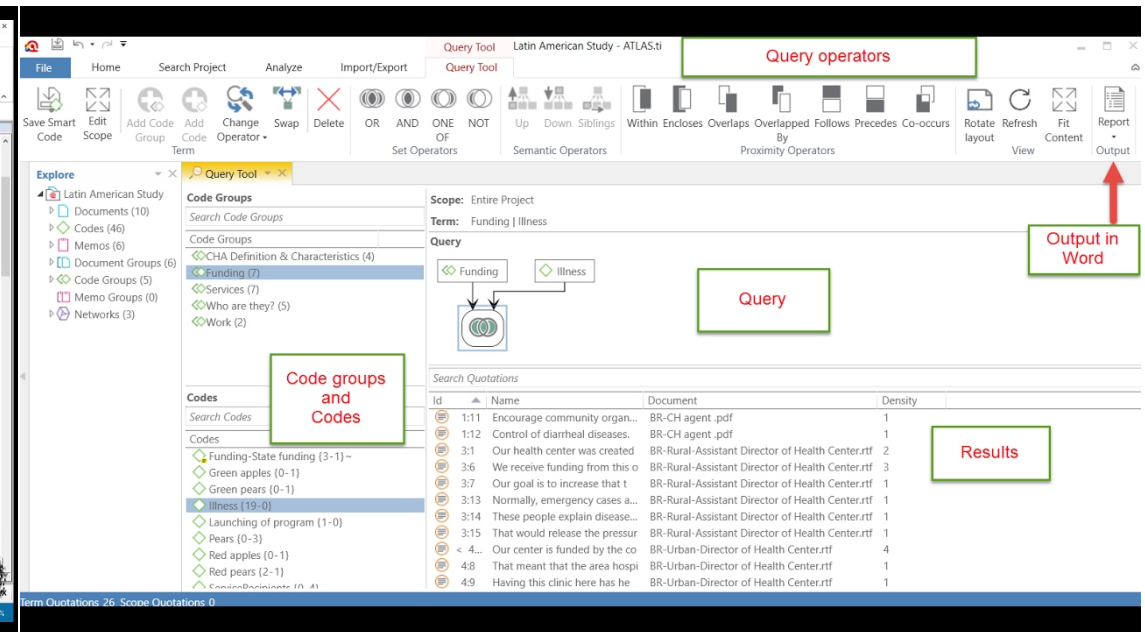
- Review raw data and identify commonalities and disparities (open coding)
- Determine categories
- Determine systematic criteria of selection of raw data into categories
- Sort data into categories
- Examine the sorted data to isolate patterns

CAQDAS

Nvivo



Atlas.ti



Meanings and discourse

- Manifest and latent content
- Discourse:
 - Written or spoken use of language
- “[D]iscourse analysis may be understood as the study of language in the everyday sense of the term language. In other words, what most people generally mean when they use the term language is talk—words used to communicate and conduct a conversation or create a discourse.”

The discourse of the Asian financial crisis

- Context:
 - East Asian miracle
 - 1997 financial crisis
- Data:
 - Press releases
 - Speeches
 - Other public pronouncements



The discourse of the Asian financial crisis

- Coding:

	United States Treasury	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	South Korean government
Ultimate causes	Reliance on debt Crony capitalism Corruption	Lack of transparency and good governance	Crony capitalism and corruption (business-government collusion)
Proximate causes	Inflated currencies Unproductive investments Lack of competition	Growth slowdown Debt	<i>Blurred/omitted</i>

The discourse of the Asian financial crisis

- Identification of patterns and inference-making:
 - Joint discursive representation of the East Asian development model —> adoption of neoliberal practices

Takeaways

- Inferences:
 - Reasoning
 - Evidence:
 - Raw data obtained through data collection —>
 - Coded data