

ATLAS.ti-The Qualitative Data Analysis Software

Making Sense of Research Data

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01. Applications

02. Central concept: the Hermeneutic Unit (HU)

03. Objects of the HU:

primary documents

quotations

codes

memos

families

networks

04. What kinds of questions to ask?

05. Is team work possible?

06. How can data be exported?

- It assists researchers in the process of identifying and making sense of people's points of view and perspectives on issues.
- It allows for rich analysis of complex studies involving different sources of information.
- It allows for the study of single cases as well as for comparative studies across cases.
- The researcher is always in control: methodological freedom (from hypothesis-testing to grounded theory).

- Integrated context for data description, analysis, and interpretation.
- Container that holds the sources of information and all of the analytical work done around them.
- Every research project requires a single hermeneutic unit holding all of the sources of information to be analyzed.

The HU Interface

The screenshot displays the ATLAS.ti software interface. The main window shows a document titled "Migration Study-04-29-2011 - ATLAS.ti". The document content includes the author's name, "CRISTINA SZANTON BLANC, Columbia University", and a paragraph of text discussing transnational migration. A code manager window is open on the right, listing various codes such as "Undocumented Immigration", "Transnational Migration", and "Ethnography of transnational migration". The code manager window also shows a list of codes and a search bar.

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Contemporary immigrants can not be characterized as the "uprooted." Many are transmigrants, becoming firmly rooted in their new country but maintaining multiple linkages to their homeland. In the United States anthropologists are engaged in building a transnational anthropology and rethinking their data on immigration. Migration proves to be an important transnational process that reflects and contributes to the current political configurations of the emerging global economy. In this article we use our studies of migration from St. Vincent, Grenada, the Philippines, and Haiti to the U.S. to delineate some of the parameters of an ethnography of transnational migration and explore the reasons for and the implications of transnational migrations. We conclude that the transnational connections of immigrants provide a subtext of the public debates in the U.S. about the merits of immigration. [transnationalism, immigration, nation-state, nationalism, identity]

In the United States several generations of researchers have viewed immigrants as persons who uproot themselves, leave behind home and country, and face the painful process of incorporation into a different society and culture (Handlin 1973[1951]; Takaki 1993). A new concept of transnational migration is emerging, however, that questions this long-held conceptualization of immigrants, suggesting that in both the U.S. and Europe, increasing numbers of immigrants are best understood as "transmigrants." Transmigrants are immigrants whose daily lives depend on multiple and constant interconnections across international borders and whose public identities are configured in relationship to more than one nation-state (Glick Schiller et al. 1992a; Basch et al. 1994). They are not sojourners because they settle and become incorporated in the economy and political institutions, localities, and patterns of daily life of the country in which they reside. However, at the very same time, they are engaged elsewhere in the sense that they maintain connections, build institutions, conduct transactions, and influence local and national events in the countries from which they emigrated.

ing a new process of migration, scholars of transnational migration emphasize the ongoing and continuing ways in which current-day immigrants construct and reconstitute their simultaneous embeddedness in more than one society. The purpose of this article is to delineate the parameters of an ethnography of transnational migration and use this anthropology to explore the ways in which the current debate on immigration in the U.S. can be read as a nation-state building project that delimits and constrains the allegiances and loyalties of transmigrants. Once we reframe the concept of immigrant and examine the political factors which have shaped the image of immigrants as the uprooted, a whole new approach to understanding immigrants and the current debate about immigration becomes possible.

Three vignettes of discontinuities we have observed between the transnational practices of immigrants and common assumptions about immigrants made by scholars, members of the public, the media and public officials experts illustrate the myopic view of immigrants demonstrated in much public

Code Manager [HU: Migration Study-04-29-...]
Codes Edit Miscellaneous Output View
Name
*Taqueria + T.m. as part of globalization
Articulation
Border developed-undeveloped~
Border Patrol Chief Agent
Build new organizations
Code A
Code B
Code C
Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Dependency
Different anthropological traditions migratio..
04/29/2011 03:29:18 PM
Kearney (33) states that the Mexican migration case is unique because of the "permeable land
47 Codes [1] Border developed-un All Name - Title

3: From Immigrant to Transmigrant.pdf -> <HUPATH>\Primary Documents\From Immigrant to Transmigrant.pdf Page: 2 of 1 Size: 96 PDF Defau

The Objects of the HU

- Primary documents
- Quotations
- Codes
- Memos
- Families
- Networks

- Sources of information to be analyzed (no limit in terms of quantity).
- Triangulate different methods of data collection, such as:
 - Structured, semi-structured, and unstructured interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Surveys with open-ended questions (Excel format)
 - Field notes from observations
 - Archival sources: institutional records, websites, e-mails, blogs, etc.
 - Literature reviews
 - Drawing and pictures
 - Videos
 - Mapping
- Accepts documents in different formats:
 - Text: Word, RTF, PDF, TXT
 - Excel
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Graphic
 - Google Earth

Primary Documents

gration Study-04-29-2011 - ATLAS.ti

Edit Documents Quotations Codes Memos Networks Views Tools Extras A-Docs Windows Help

P 3: From Immigrant to Transmigrant.pdf [141]

3:15 immigrants as persons who (2:1391-2:1417)

Taqueria + T.m. as part of globalization {-0}

Association 1 (0-Me-F) - Ricardo

Wagner College

CRISTINA SZANTON BLANC
Columbia University

Contemporary immigrants can not be characterized as the "uprooted." Many are transmigrants, becoming firmly rooted in their new country but maintaining multiple linkages to their homeland. In the United States anthropologists are engaged in building a transnational anthropology and rethinking their data on immigration. Migration proves to be an important transnational process that reflects and contributes to the current political configurations of the emerging global economy. In this article we use our studies of migration from St. Vincent, Grenada, the Philippines, and Haiti to the U.S. to delineate some of the parameters of an ethnography of transnational migration and explore the reasons for and the implications of transnational migrations. We conclude that the transnational connections of immigrants provide a subtext of the public debates in the U.S. about the merits of immigration. [transnationalism, immigration, nation-state, nationalism, identity]

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Three vignettes of discontinuities we have observed between the transnational practices of immigrants and common assumptions about immigrants made by scholars, members of the public, the media and public officials experts illustrate the myopic view of immigrants demonstrated in much public discourse. The first vignette is the need to redefine

Primary Doc Manager [HU: Migration Study-04-29-2011]

Documents Edit Miscellaneous Output View

Id	Name	Media	Qu
P 7	How Many Hispanics.pdf	PDF	
P 8	Maria Hernandez.WMA	Audio	
P 9	Picking on ladder.avi	Video	
P10	Stereotypes of Hispanic and Latino Americans.pdf	PDF	
P11	Fieldnotes	Text	
P12	Focus Group	Rich Text	
P13	Taqueria.jpg	Image	
P14	Fieldnotes May 3 2011	Text	
P15	Obama;s view on immigration reform	Rich Text	
P20	Test1	Text	
P21	Test2	Rich Text	
P22	case 1	Rich Text	
P23	case 2	Rich Text	
P24	case 3	Rich Text	
P25	case 4	Rich Text	

21 Primary Docs [1] P 3: From Immigrant to Transmigrant.pdf All Id - The P index

Undocumented Immigration

- Segments of the text that the researcher selects according to research interests.
- Quotations can be as short as a single character and as long as the entire primary document.
- All quotations become part of a ‘database’ of the quotations from all primary documents used in the analysis.
- Quotations can be linked to codes (concepts), and memos (reflections).
- Quotations can be linked to each other semantically (hyperlinks).
- Quotations are always shown within their larger context.
- Quotations can be described, renamed, and outputted in Rich Text Format.

Quotations

The screenshot displays the Atlas.ti software interface. The main window shows a document titled "P 1: Daniel Altschuler.doc (47)~" with text from a transcript. The text includes a paragraph starting with "The first is that we will be doing some major public events in the fall..." and another starting with "Altschuler: You have argued that racism undergirds much of the opposition...". A sidebar on the right contains a list of tags such as "Build new organizations", "Comprehensive Immigration Reform", and "Undocumented Immigration". A "Quotation Manager" window is open in the foreground, showing a list of quotations with their IDs and timestamps. The selected quotation is: "04/27/2011 03:24:04 PM Althuser asks a question about imm. reform that seems to be controversial." The status bar at the bottom indicates "308 Quotations [1] 1:1 All Id - Index (eg. 2:33) Size: 10 Rich Text: Default".

Objects of the HU: Codes

- Concepts that can either derive from external frameworks of reference or emerge from the text.
- Codes are linked to quotations from any primary document of the HU, memos, and other codes through semantic relationships.
- Codes can be grouped together according to shared conceptual characteristics (eg., all codes that respond to research objective 1).
- Codes can be linked to quotations by the researcher or automatically by the system (auto-coding).
- Codes can be commented (operational definitions).
- All codes are stored in a database of codes, which allows for easy access and exploration.

Codes

n Study-04-29-2011 - ATLAS.ti

Documents Quotations Codes Memos Networks Views Tools Extras A-Docs Windows Help

P 1: Daniel Altschuler.doc (47)~

~1:1 Question about imm. reform (29:29)

✱ Undocumented Immigration (257-0)

Association 1 {0-Me-F} - Ricardo

he first is that we will be doing some major public events in the fall. There will be an event here in Washington in September under the banner of "Reform, Relief, and Respect" that will bring together not just immigrant constituencies, but the other allies that I talked about--elected officials, faith leaders and so forth. [The aim is] to make the case for comprehensive reform, to talk about the 1100 people who are deported every day, and to talk about the pain of the separation of families and the impact it has on communities. And also to draw a bright line that there's a middle in the country that is united against the level of demagoguery and hate that has been unleashed in the wake of Arizona, [such as] calls for repeals of the 14th Amendment and extreme politics of that kind.

That's meant as a call to conscience. That will kick off a period in which there is an aggressive effort to try and move some kind of positive policy--whether that's CIR, the DREAM Act, administrative changes or something else. And then there's the electoral work, which we think will set-up the possibility of post-election work on a comprehensive bill. So, we're driving very hard, even though the legislative picture isn't that clear. The movement hasn't stopped moving, and it will continue to try to create political space for legislative possibilities.

Altschuler: You have argued that racism undergirds much of the opposition <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/deepak-bhargava/arizona-tilts-toward-apollo-b-48178.html> to immigration reform. Surely, not all those who in the anti-immigrant lobby are racists; many of them simply believe that the federal government must protect US borders and keep track of who resides in the country. How can progressive groups effectively communicate their message to this latter group?

Bhargava: The messaging for the overall campaign for immigration reform has really been about connecting American values--of inclusion, America's immigrant history, our sense of honoring hard work--with the quest for real solutions. That is, the deep down recognition that people have that it's not practical or humane or likely that we will deport 11 or 12 million people. That is not a real solution. [And we have been trying to connect that to] concrete policies that acknowledge that the country does have a national interest in regulating the flow of migrants to the US. [We have argued] that every concern that people have about economic impact is not without justification, but that we're better served by having a rational, orderly legal system than we are by having an essentially rogue system that creates large numbers of exploitable workers.

So, we do make a real effort to connect with the real, legitimate concerns that people have. And I am firmly of the belief that there are maybe 20 to 25 percent of the population that will

Altschuler.doc -> <HUPATH>\Primary Documents\Daniel Altschuler.doc

Code Manager [HU: Migration Study-04-29-2011]

Name	Ground...	De...	Aut...	(
✱ Modernization	2	1	Rica...	C
✱ National campaign for legalization	4	0	Rica...	C
✱ Nativism~	3	0	Rica...	C
✱ Norther Europe and Mediterrean countries	1	0	Rica...	C
✱ Paroxysms of hate~	1	0	Rica...	C
✱ Path to citizenship	1	0	Rica...	C
✱ Problems of urbanization and rural develop...	1	0	Rica...	C
✱ Prospects imm. reform~	1	0	Rica...	C
✱ Question 1: General opinion immigration ref...	4	0	Rica...	C
✱ Question 2: What should be done to implem...	4	0	Rica...	C

04/27/2011 04:36:07 PM

The different views on immigration in the Republican base that contain elements of nativism.

47 Codes [1] Nativism All Name - Title

Size: 100% Rich Text D

Objects of the HU: Memos

- Spaces for reflection.
- This is where the analyst brings together what has been discovered, described, and analyzed.
- Memos can be linked to quotations, codes, and other memos.
- A good memo (or a good system of memos) can become the basis for the research report.
- Memos can be grouped together according to shared characteristics.

The screenshot displays the ATLAS.ti software interface. The main window shows a document titled "P 1: Daniel Altschuler.doc (48)~" with a timestamp of "1:48 So that's meant as a call to c.. (28:28)". The document content includes a section titled "Undocumented Immigration (256-0)" and a sub-section "Assumptions about immigration debate (2-Me) - Super". The text discusses public events in Washington, the separation of families, and the impact of immigration reform. A blue highlight covers a paragraph starting with "So that's meant as a call to conscience. That will kick off a period in which there is an aggressive effort to try and move some kind of positive policy--whether that's CIR, the DREAM Act, administrative changes or something else. And then there's the electoral work, which we think will set-up the possibility of post-election work on a comprehensive bill. So, we're driving very hard, even though the legislative picture isn't that clear. The movement hasn't stopped moving, and it will continue to try to create political space for legislative possibilities."

The Memo Manager window is open, showing a list of memos:

Name	Type	Grounded
Association 1	Memo	0
Assumptions about immigr...	Memo	2
List of Codes	Memo	0
Relationships between Conc...	Memo	1
Theoretical orientation ant...	Memo	1

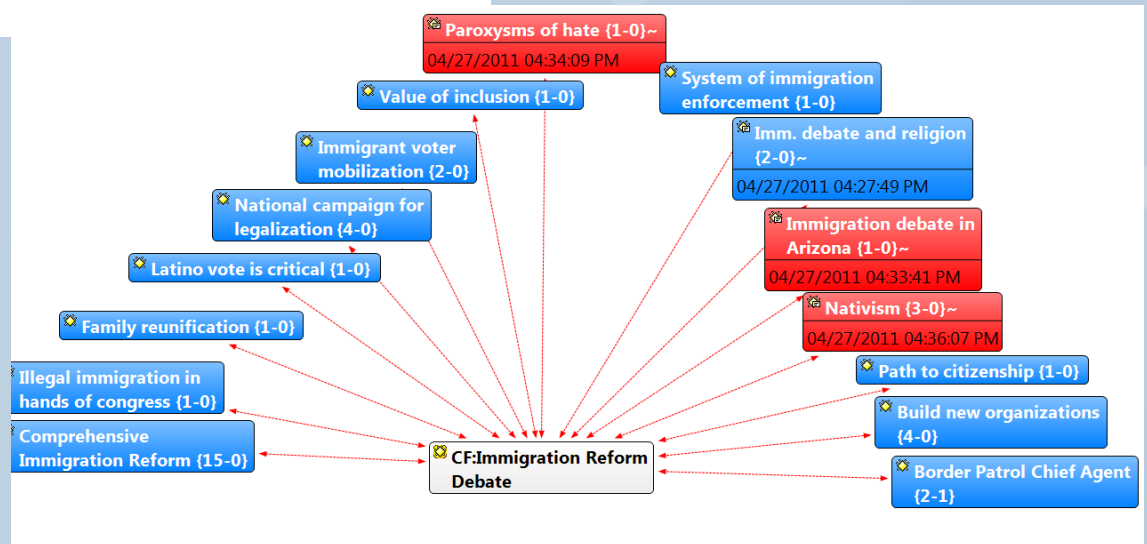
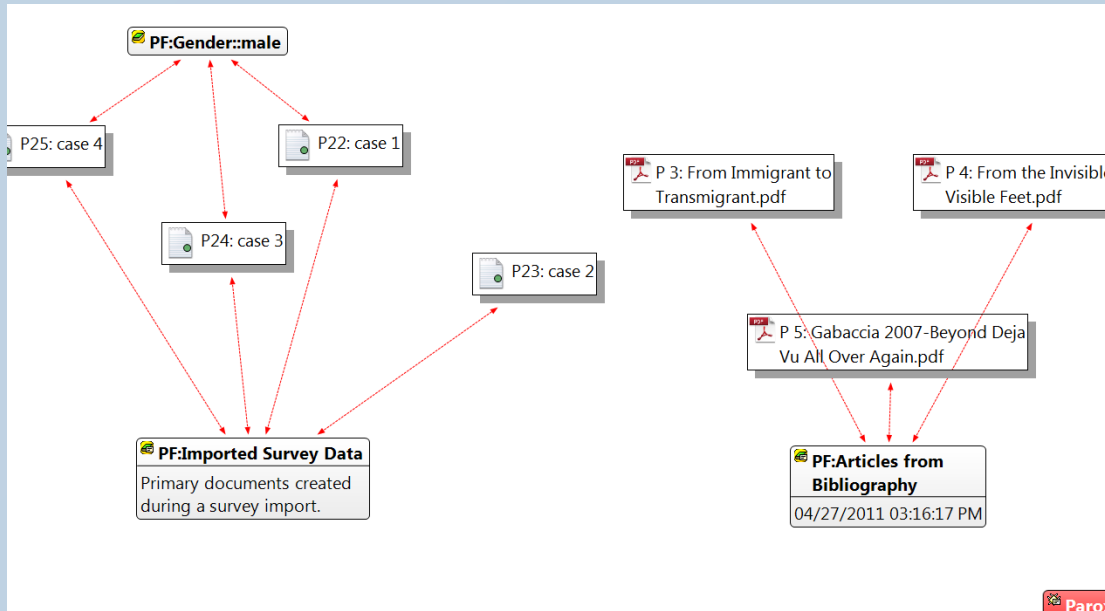
The Memo Manager window also shows a memo titled "04/27/2011 03:32:35 PM" with the following text:

As I start the analysis of these documents, I realize that there are a number of assumptions I have developed through the years both as an immigrant myself and as a researcher. First, it seems to me that the debate is divided between conservatives and liberals in terms of the acceptance to immigration reform.

Objects of the HU: Families

- **Primary document families:** group documents according to specific attributes, such as demographic (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity), sites (e.g., Belfast, London, Berlin), and waves of data collection (e.g., first wave, second wave).
- **Code families:** group codes according to shared conceptual characteristics, such as codes representing the point of view of the participant, codes related to a specific research objective, codes that represent a given hypothesis.
- **Memo families:** group memos according to shared characteristics, such as memos exploring the findings related to a given research objective or hypothesis, memos reflecting upon the method of analysis, or memos analyzing the literature.

Families



Graphical representations showing linkages between objects of the HU.
Conceptual maps.

- **Weak Link Networks:** Networks that are given by default by the system, such as the network of all the quotations created in a primary document, and all the codes linked to all quotations in that primary document.
- **Strong Link Networks:** Semantic networks connecting codes to codes through a given meaning (e.g., is part of, is a, is associated with), and quotations to quotations also through a given meaning (e.g., contradicts, explains, supports, illustrates).

Networks

The screenshot displays the ATLAS.ti interface with two main windows. The left window, titled "Question 3: What do you think of the people who are illegally in the country? (4-0)", shows a text analysis of responses. The right window, titled "Definitions Transnational Migration", shows a network diagram of concepts.

Text Analysis Window (Left):

- Question 3: What do you think of the people who are illegally in the country? (4-0)**
- [25:3][8]**: Our forefathers were illegal immigrants once. This is a matter of human rights, and I support their cause
- [24:3][8]**: I don't like them. I see them in the streets and they are not good people. I fear for my safety when I am close to them.
- [23:3][8]**: They use our services and resources. They come here to benefit from our system.
- [22:3][8]**: They are the ones who make it possible for the United States to have cheap food. They work hard for their families.

Network Diagram Window (Right):

- Transnational Migration (8-2)** (purple box)
- Different anthropological traditions migration (1-6)~** (purple box, timestamp: 04/29/2011 03:22:15 PM)
- Three theoretical orientations (2-5)** (purple box)
- Migration as contestation of borders (1-3)** (purple box)
- Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~** (purple box)
- Structural (1-1)** (purple box)
- Dependency (3-3)** (purple box)
- human and policy issues (2-2)~** (purple box, timestamp: 04/29/2011 03:36:25 PM)
- Internal migration in Mexico (1-1)** (white box)

Relationships:

- Transnational Migration (8-2) is part of Different anthropological traditions migration (1-6)~ and Three theoretical orientations (2-5).
- Different anthropological traditions migration (1-6)~ is associated with Three theoretical orientations (2-5).
- Different anthropological traditions migration (1-6)~ is a Migration as contestation of borders (1-3) and Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~.
- Three theoretical orientations (2-5) is a Structural (1-1) and Dependency (3-3).
- Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~ is a Migration as contestation of borders (1-3) and Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~.
- Structural (1-1) is a Migration as contestation of borders (1-3).
- Dependency (3-3) is a Migration as contestation of borders (1-3).
- Migration as contestation of borders (1-3) is associated with human and policy issues (2-2)~.
- Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~ is associated with human and policy issues (2-2)~.
- human and policy issues (2-2)~ is associated with Internal migration in Mexico (1-1).
- A green arrow labeled "STUDIES" points from Ethnography of transnational migration (1-2)~ to human and policy issues (2-2)~.

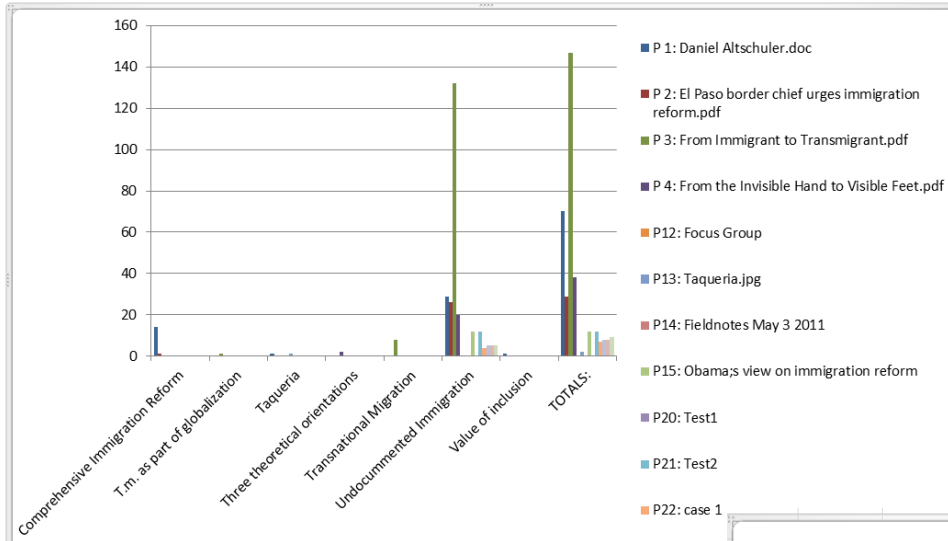
Page: 2 of 1 Size: 73% PDF

What kinds of questions to ask?

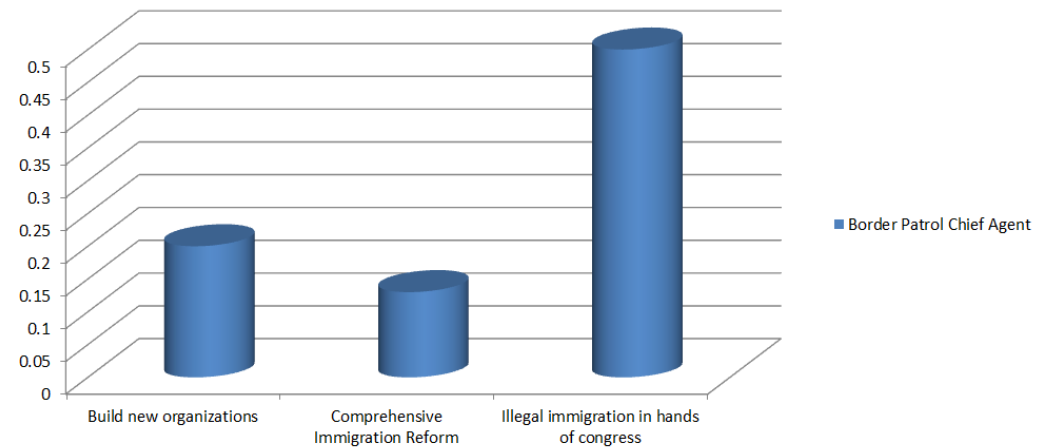
Examples of research questions that can be asked

- What themes are found in the data? What themes are more/less significant from a quantitative perspective?
- What is the qualitative significance of themes? Does it vary across cases, participants, or waves of data collection?
- Whenever study participants talk about Theme X, what else are they talking about?
- What do participants say about Theme X AND/OR Theme Y? Any variation across cases, participants, or waves of data collection?
- How does the literature/theory inform the study's findings?

What questions to ask: the co-occurrence explorer



Concepts that are Co-Occurring in the Data with "Border Patrol Agent"



Is team work possible?

- Each team member can be in charge of coding a specific set of primary documents.
- Each team member can be in charge of exploring a specific conceptual domain.
- No limit in terms of the number of people working in different aspects of the analysis in a team setting.
- Need for strong coordination and transparency in collaboration.
- Inter-rater reliability may be required.

Team Work: Merging HUs

Define the merge strategy

Stock Strategies

- Same PDs and Codes
- Same PDs - Different Codes
- Different PDs - Same Codes
- Different PDs and Codes

Create Merge-Report

PDs of merged HU are different from the target HU and will be appended. The codes of both HUs are identical and will be unified.

	Add	Unify	Ignore
Primary Docs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quotations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Codes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Netviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
PD-Families	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Code-Families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Memo-Families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
A-Docs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Merge Comments

< Back Finish Cancel

How can data be exported?

- XML
- HTML
- SPSS
- Excel
- Rich Text Format (RTF)
- PDF
- Graphic formats

Thank you!

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