

## Thematic analysis – data for coding exercise

This activity is based on a data extract from an interview study exploring **LGBT students' experiences of university life** (see Braun & Clarke, 2012). The participant is a gay man – a mature student, who spoke English as a second language. The extract comes from early in the interview and in response to a question about whether he is 'out' as a gay man at university – whether he is openly gay.

First, reflect on your assumptions and expectations about this topic, and your positioning in relation to this topic (Are you an insider researcher? Outsider?).

Second, read the data extract and make some familiarisation notes.

Then have a go at coding the Andreas data extract. Try to develop at least one latent code as well as semantic codes to clarify your understanding of the semantic-latent distinction.

Andreas: ...I sometimes try to erm not conceal it that's not the right word but erm let's say I'm in a in a seminar and somebody- a a man says to me 'oh look at her' (Int: mm) I'm not going 'oh actually I'm gay' (Int: mm [laughter]) I'll just go like 'oh yeah' (Int: mmhm) you know I won't fall into the other one and say 'oh yeah' (Int: yep) 'she looks really brilliant' (Int: yep) but I sorta then and after them you hate myself for it because I I don't know how this person would react because that person might then either not talk to me anymore or erm might sort of yeah (Int: yep) or next time we met not not sit next to me or that sort of thing (Int: yep) so I think these this back to this question are you out yes but I think wherever you go you always have to start afresh (Int: yep) this sort of li-lifelong process of being courageous in a way or not...

Transcription notation: Underlining = emphasis; words in inverted commas = reported speech or thoughts.

Once you have had a go at coding, try to reflect on your assumptions in coding the data:

- What worldview does your coding reflect?
- Where do your codes locate meaning – in Andrea's psychological world 'in there' or in the social world 'out there'?
- Now reflect on the challenges (and pleasures – if there were any!) of coding the data.
- What questions, if any, has this exercise raised for you about thematic analysis, and qualitative analysis more broadly?