

# Narrative Interviewing



## What is it?

A narrative interview consists of the researcher asking an open-ended question that invites the interviewee to respond in a narrative form (i.e. through story-telling and retelling experiences of events as they happened) (Jovchelovitch and Bauer, 2000)



Asking participants for a response that describes their experience - in which they are the "i" or narrator



## How does it create change?



Rather than assert or announce a series of questions, narrative interviewing allows for more exploration and engagement by encouraging participants to engage with their stories on their own terms and giving them an “epistolary voice” to create new meaning and understandings to their situated knowledges (Guenette and Marshall, 2009: 86)

Researchers using narrative interview techniques do not set out with a . xed agenda, rather they tend to let the interviewee control the direction, content and pace of the interview.

This method of interview is a participant-centered approach to prevent the perpetuation of harmful generalizations and where participants are **active agents** in the research process rather than passive victims.

In 2018,  
**1 IN 20**  
homes had their  
water shut off in  
the U.S



## How is it applied to my work?

Used with households to build knowledge on how the financialization of water in Black-majority U.S cities is “lived out” by exploring the everyday realities of people struggling with water affordability and dealing with city-led mass water shut offs



Between 2010 and 2018, water bills have increased by 154% in U.S cities, although median household incomes increased only 3 percent per year (Lakhani, 2020)

In the U.S, the highest water disconnections are disproportionately concentrated in Black-majority cities where low-income households pay almost 2x more for their water and sewer services than majority white cities (Food and Water Watch, 2018)



Conversations began with an open-ended interview question which led to participants telling their story and sharing their personal experiences of living without water and how this has impacted their everyday lives.

### SOURCES

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