

## Pedagogic Quality and Inequality

### Third-Year (Case Study) Interview Schedule

#### NB

It is crucial to read the interview transcripts from last year so that issues can be referred back to clarified and so on: the interviewer should have a set of questions based on previous interviews to take to the interview and bring in relevant places. Most importantly, the student should have the sense that we remember what s/he said.

Make a written record if there have been **changes in accommodation and employment** (perhaps ask this at the start of the interview). This information should be added to transcripts at the top and recorded in notes in Nvivo-we are keeping the lifegrids as a record of the students' 'past me' in the first year.

This is our last chance to speak to the students so we must get the data we need. All areas of the schedule should be covered during the interview, which should, nevertheless take no more than one hour. NB the headings are not questions. Comments for the interviewer are in square brackets.

Give the student his/her **vouchers** and ask them to sign for it.

Ask the student if they want to be told again about the project and ask them to sign the updated **consent form**.

**Record the student locator and date you are interviewing** before you start the interview.

If the student has not undertaken a photo interview (Martina will tell you whether or not they have) ask them if they would be willing.

Text or email the student afterwards to thank them for their time, say good luck in their studies and remind them that we shall be in touch about their project/dissertation.

#### 1. Introductory Questions (including dissertation):

- How's it going? How did you do at the end of last year? Do those marks go towards your degree? What are you hoping to get (classification)? What did you do before Christmas? What do you need to do now before you finish? [If they are doing one] What are you doing your dissertation on? Why? How's it going? We really look forward to seeing it.
- What's foremost in your mind at the moment? [Try to get a sense of how the student is feeling-it is a difficult time to interview and be encouraging. In both the first interviews the students mention jobs, so this is where I had the conversation]

#### 2. What the student has gained from academic work

[Say you are aware that s/he has not yet completed his/her degree- so all the questions are 'so far' questions]

##### 2.1 Discipline (knowledge ie learned to know about what?)

- Now you have studied sociology\criminology for nearly three years how do you feel about it as a discipline? (Has it met the expectations you had of it when you started? Has it surprised you? Let you down?)

- Do you enjoy sociology/criminology? Why/what? Why not?
- Do you find it difficult? If so, why. what? Do you mind?
- Would you give me two or three examples of the most interesting things you have learned in sociology/criminology? What makes them interesting? (Discuss whether and why theory, methods, empirical examples are the most interesting and why)
- Has it helped you understand society and groups in society more generally? If so, would you give a couple of examples?
- Has sociology/criminology helped you understand and think differently about your own life or about the lives of people close to you? Please give examples
- What do you think are the main things your lecturers want you to learn in sociology/criminology? (the main messages) What gives you that impression? Are they very knowledgeable themselves? How do they show that? Do they do research?
- Do you have a sense of what it means to say that you are a sociologist/criminologist? Do you feel like a sociologist/criminologist?
- [If they are joint degree students] How does it compare with your other subject?

## 2.2 Discipline (know how- ie learned to do what?)

- What are you better at academically/intellectually now than when you arrived? [prompts: thinking, Reading, writing, talking (formally and informally), listening, working in groups, ICT?]
- What do you feel you are good at in your academic work?
- Can you describe how hard you have worked during your degree. Roughly what proportion of your time do you spend on university work? What do you do with the rest of your time? Are you planning to spend more time on university work this year?

## 2.3 How have 2.1 and 2.2.above been learned- getting at students' conceptions of quality?

- What has it been like studying/learning sociology/criminology here? [Prompt: lectures, seminars, workshops, reading . assessment and feedback; use of ICT, relationships with tutors [how do you get on with your tutors?], relationship with peers on the course. [We need to get at the positives and negatives and why. I think the experience of seminars is important- ask how much s/he has actually spoken. We also need to know how much they talk to and learn from each other]
- How did you work out what was expected of you on your degree course? Did you read handbooks?
- What do/have you had to work hardest at?
- What would you recommend about the teaching you've had?
- What would you have wanted improved. (Is there anything that would have helped you do better?)

## **3. What has the student gained from the broader university experience**

- What have you liked and not liked about student life more generally?
- Have you made good friends [how many? Do you think they'll be for life?] How have you met them?
- Have you been part of a group (s) of friends?
- Do you have a partner? From before university? Met here?
- Have you joined societies/clubs? Any other activities in the university or department/school?

[Generally, find out whether university has been only learning sociology/criminology or more than that]

#### 4. **How the student combines university and non-university**

- Do you keep up with friends who are at other universities? If so, how and how often.
- Do you keep up with friends who didn't go to university. If so, how and how often?
- Has university changed your relationship with friends from home?
- Do you keep in touch with your family? How often and how?
- Has being at university changed your relationships with family?
- Do you think you are a typical student?

#### 5. **What students have become –combining learning a discipline with the 'student experience' [nb I found that most of these**

- Are you different from when you started university? If so, how? Do you think it is the academic work or the general experience of university that has changed you? If the academic work- how? If the more general university experience, how?
- Has being at university changed the ways you think about people and things that happen in society? If so, how? Give me a couple of examples. Has this been sociology/criminology or being at university? [this might have been answered in 2.1 above and should certainly be linked to it]
- What do you really want to do with your life when you leave [refer to previous interviews here and work if it has already been mentioned]? What will you do? Do you have plans or wishes for 5 years time? [ask about work, personal plans, other activities and contributions]
- Can imagine what you would be like if you hadn't been to university?
- Do you think your life will be very different from your parents? If so, how and has university had anything to do with it? If not, why not?

#### 6. **Summary questions**

- Overall, are you pleased that you came to university to study sociology/criminology? Why? Why Not?
- Have you felt comfortable at university? Why? Why not?
- What does a degree mean to you? (What does it mean to you to be a graduate?) What does it mean to your family?
- Will having studied criminology\sociology makes you different from the average man or woman in the street? If so, how?
- Can you see yourself encouraging your own children to go to university? (probe: about fee rise)
- Would you recommend your university? If so, why and if not why not?
- Have you got what you wanted from university? [remind them what they said in the first and second years]

7. How would you rate your satisfaction overall on a scale of 1-10? (discuss comparisons with previous years)

8. Anything that you think is important about being at university that we haven't discussed.