



## Background

The fields of business and medicine contain many examples of the utility of multi-disciplinary teamwork. We undertook research on GENEROSITY using a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach to conceptualizing “generous practice” and to learn about the practice of in-depth interviewing in social science (1). Commentary on developing undergraduate research teams suggests that, with structure, such teams can be effective learning modalities for peer-to-peer mentoring and undergraduate research (2,3).

## Research Question

What is learned by using a self-reflective approach to interviewing using multi-disciplinary team interviewing?

## Methods

Our team included disciplinary perspectives from AMCS, BIOL, POLS, SOCI, SPAN, WGS. Group-based discussions were recorded at weekly team meetings and individual team members wrote detailed, memos reflecting on group activities. Recordings and memos were used as “data” for perspectives on the process of understanding GENEROSITY.

Our team collectively developed an in-depth interview guide, from literature review and team-based discussion, and then practiced using it in three 60-90 minute, team-based pilot interviews. Team-based pilot interviews involved a collective process of “interviewing as one” and the use of “time-out” for collaborative reflection and discussion.

## Results

- Engagement in a multi-disciplinary dialogue enriched understanding of the purpose and process of interview and development of its content. This is demonstrated in some of the data clips from team discussion and individual reflection, presented in the examples below.

### Pre-Pilot Interview

“I stepped outside of my shoes and put on the shoes of somebody else to see the situation from another perspective.”  
(MK, Feb. 2021. GENEROSITY & DISCIPLINES)

“In practicing the guide [with the team], I realized that I was vulnerable in sharing my views and events in my personal life” (ACM, Feb. 2021. GENEROSITY & DISCIPLINES)

### Pilot Testing the interview

“I [learned to] give thought and consideration to feelings of comfort and vulnerability with potential interviewees we don’t know.” (EV, March 2021, INTERVIEW PROCESS)

“Realizing it’s a balancing act to be an active listener and following an interview guide.” (MT, Feb. 2021, INTERVIEW PROCESS)

### Post-Pilot Interview

“Our team went above and beyond to use transitional phrases when moving onto the next topic.” (MG, April 2021, SP PILOT INTERVIEW)

“I was very impressed by all my teammates in the growth of their skills and how they handled... interview[ing].” (MT, April 2021, SP PILOT INTERVIEW)

## Reflection

- We learned to collaborate as a team using different multidisciplinary views in conceptualizing “generous practices”.
- In both outlining disciplinary perspectives and personal reflection as well as during team practice with the interview guide, we gained better knowledge of what it would be like to be in a position of vulnerability.
- Working collaboratively as a team during pilot interviews offered room for reflecting on various possibilities for directing the interview and exploring specific experiences of interviewees.
- Teamwork offered opportunity for greater flexibility in the interview process.
- As a team, we reflected upon our overall growth in how to explore generous practices as well as on our growth as researchers.