Methodology in Action: The Development of Data Collection Tools
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Background

Our multidisciplinary team set out to design research tools to understand the paradox of Generosity[1,2] and to fill some of the gaps in knowledge the existing literature.

Previous research on Generosity has not covered the lived experience of the people giving and receiving generosity. We set out to examine this experience.

Research Questions

• What aspects of the lived experience of the concept of GENEROSITY might be missing from the literature?
• How might we better understand those aspects?
• How does our development in a multidisciplinary team help build stronger data collection tools?

Methods

• Our team reviewed definitions of GENEROSITY in the literature, and developed a working definition for tool development.
• We defined GENEROSITY as “an aspect of kindness, an action from the heart that is given without expectations or reward” and recognized that persons may often feel some reward.(3,4)
• Next, we developed a structured questionnaire and interview guide
• Questionnaire items included standard demographic questions, with multi-disciplinary discussion & agreement about the items & anchors.
• Guided interview questions originated from questions in the literature, in team discussion, and through grounded engagement (5) in pilot-testing the interview guide as a group.
• In addition, we maintained written and video logs of our team process.

Results

Development of Demographic Questionnaire*

Discussions related to construction of the pre-interview questionnaire included:
• response stems for gender item,
• prioritization of response categories related to race identification,
• proxy measures for socio-economic status,
• inclusion of Likert scale responses related to community engagement and political participation in addition to well-being,
• in addition to standard questions related to age, education, employment, marital & health status.

Development of Intensive Interview Guide*

The interview guide was developed based on:
• intensive review of the literature
• multi-disciplinary team discussion and reflection on key ideas
• team reflection (in recorded video sessions & writing) on pilot interviews
• iterative review of conceptual issues emerging from pilot testing & team reflection

The interview guide includes:
• questions about giving & receiving generosity
• contemporary, past, and imagined future experiences & practices
• intensive probes for deeper exploration of life experience of interview participants

References


Discussion

• Being multi-disciplinary team (AMCS, BIOL, POLS, SOCI, SPAN, WGS), our backgrounds made for a nuanced and multi-faceted lens for understanding the literature, emphasizing various aspects of the lived experience, and developing strategies for probing understandings of generous experiences and practices.
• As our team practiced interviews and became more comfortable with the interview process, we developed more insight to intensive probes to engage in deeper discussions of the life experience of the participants, not adequately reflected in prior literature.
• The biggest limitation as a team has been engaging all our work over Zoom. We imagine richer understandings could be gained by face-to-face discussions.