

WORKING GROUP INTERVIEWING - A
SUPPORT GROUP Laurinda Brown
University of Bristol, School of Education

Present: Barbara Allen, Ezra Blondel, Laurinda Brown, Leone Burton, Steve Byatt, Cherry Edwards, Charlie Gilderdale, Anne Meredith, Michelle Selinger, Christine Shiu, Rosamund Sutherland, Anne Watson

This group met for the first time at Birmingham with a focus of introducing ourselves and the work we were currently undertaking to raise issues for consideration in future sessions.

It seemed important to be aware that the membership of the group will not be stable. Those present may not be able to attend every BSRLM meeting and others may be interested in particular concerns of the group. Consequently, the planning for future meetings will take place at the end of each session and, presumably, if there is no common concern emerging, the life of the group will have ended.

The issues which emerged from our consideration of the work being undertaken were:

- Ethical concerns
- Handling tape-recordings; to transcribe or not and how?; analysis, interpretation and justification
- Methodology and methods, are we clear about the distinctions?
- Is the interviewee co-researcher (what does this mean?) or simply guinea pig? or?
- Ways of presenting results
- Building up a collection of references and readings
- A chance for individuals to present rough evidence for consideration by a critical community.

To start our work the session at Loughborough (19th May, 1995) will be on the methodology/methods issue. Anne Watson will give a presentation 'I think I've got a methodology' which will be followed by a critical commentary from Leone Burton. The discussion can then range over issues raised and personal statements of methodologies and contingent methods.