

Community Interview Analysis

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Ecotopia Revisited Expert Committee Workshop

Environmental Studies Program

Lewis & Clark College

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Community Interview Analysis

- ▣ Interview procedure
 - Before/during/after
- ▣ Meaningful quotes
 - Most/least popular
 - Clusters
- ▣ HyperResearch data analysis
 - Coding utterances
 - Analyzing coded video
 - Some preliminary results

Interview Procedure

- ▣ Before
 - Invitation letters/conversations clarified contemporary take on Ecotopia
 - We attempted to spend time at each intentional community before interview
- ▣ During
 - Interviewees randomly assigned to 1-2 groups of 3-8 participants
 - Meagan and Amber typically conducted their interviews independently
 - Interview script provided structure for questions/activities/followup
 - Each interview took approximately two hours
 - All interviews were taped with guarantee that no individuals would be named
- ▣ After
 - We conducted follow-up interviews with individuals who
 - Referred to important topic (e.g. religion, natural disaster) but didn't elaborate
 - Were underrepresented in the group interview
 - At the conclusion of each interview participants were
 - Asked to take the survey
 - Re-compensated \$20
 - Offered a chance to ask questions about the research
 - Offered a chance to sign up to receive research updates

Three Meaningful Quotes: 5 Winners

- ▣ (72%) We are the air, the water, the soil, the sun. What we do to the Earth we do to ourselves, because we are a part of the web of life. [Author and recipient of UN environmental medal]
- ▣ (35%) We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves. [Spiritual and political leader]
- ▣ (33%) If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice, have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege. [Feminist and multiculturalist scholar]
- ▣ (32%) Recent greenhouse gas emissions place the Earth perilously close to dramatic climate change that could run out of control, with great dangers for humans and other creatures. [NASA scientist]
- ▣ (30%) Let small pockets of authentic spirituality focus their efforts. Let those pockets of transformation...offer an awakening in the face of the numbness that haunts the world at large. [American philosopher, psychologist, and mystic]

Three Meaningful Quotes: 5 Losers

- (28%) We are members of the most destructive culture ever to exist. Our assault on the natural world, on indigenous and other cultures, on women, on children, on all of us through the possibility of nuclear suicide and other means—all these are unprecedented in their magnitude and ferocity. [Anarchist environmental activist]
- (27%) If the current rate of habitat alteration continues unchecked, 20 percent or more of the Earth's species will disappear or be consigned to early extinction during the next thirty years. [Harvard biologist]
- (26%) Everything characteristic about the condition we call modern life has been a direct result of our access to abundant supplies of cheap fossil fuels. [American author and social critic]
- (10%) I'm absolutely convinced that the threat we face now, the idea of a terrorist in the middle of one of our cities with a nuclear weapon, is very real and that we have to use extraordinary measures to deal with it. [U.S. Vice-President]
- (6%) The essential problem of our times, for Europe and for the world, is...the crumbling of man's original uncertain ties about God, himself and the universe. The decline of a moral conscience grounded in absolute values is still our problem today. [The Pope]

Winner and Loser Clusters

++(72%) We are the air, the water, the soil, the sun. What we do to the Earth we do to ourselves, because we are a part of the web of life. [Author and recipient of UN environmental medal]

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++ = (+) intentional community correlation -- = (-) intentional community correlation

Interview Data Coding

- Coding structure designed to
 - Reflect guiding research questions
 - Classify typical responses to our interview questions
- We used a "prefix.suffix" format to establish a consistent taxonomy, with prefixes including:
 - Space (spatial scale)
 - Trend (temporal scale)
 - Source (attributed source of knowledge about a claim)
 - Theme (social or cultural domain)
 - Topic (common keywords)
 - Value (opinion or appraisal)
 - Conviction (strength of statement or disagreement)
- Codes applied to individual utterances using HyperResearch

HyperResearch Analysis

- Use code proximity function to target specific utterances for transcription and qualitative analysis
 - Nature and shape of contemporary apocalyptic discourse
 - Strength and quality of Pacific Northwest regionalism
 - Dimensions of contemporary utopianisms
 - Integration of spiritual/metaphysical concepts into daily life
- Use Hypothesis Tester to test preliminary findings
 - Concerning differences/similarities between intentional and non-intentional communities
 - About the rhetoric of spirituality in the Pacific Northwest

HyperResearch: Coding

The screenshot shows the HyperResearch software interface. On the left, there is a 'Code List Editor' window with a list of codes. The main window displays a list of codes with columns for 'Code Name', 'Source', and 'Type Reference'. A video player in the foreground shows a group of people sitting around a table outdoors, engaged in a discussion.

HyperResearch: Analysis I

The screenshot shows the HyperResearch software interface. The main window displays a table of code frequencies. The table has columns for 'Code', 'Total', 'Min', 'Max', 'Mean', 'Std Dev', and 'Bar Graph'. A bar graph is visible on the right side of the table.

Code	Total	Min	Max	Mean	Std Dev	Bar Graph
community.intentional	13	0	1	0.52	0.61	
community.intentional	21	0	1	2.44	0.97	
community.intentional	262	0	28	11.88	4.99	
community.intentional	12	0	14	2.2	0.79	
community.intentional	19	0	14	1.48	1.48	
community.intentional	46	0	10	3.44	1.68	
community.intentional	33	0	13	1.72	2.74	
community.intentional	39	0	14	1.4	1.42	
community.intentional	28	0	8	1.11	1.23	
community.intentional	24	0	4	3.36	1.11	
community.intentional	28	0	4	1.84	1.68	
community.intentional	32	0	6	1.23	1.58	
community.intentional	11	0	1	0.48	0.87	
community.intentional	1	0	1	0.89	0.2	
community.intentional	21	0	2	0.84	0.56	
community.intentional	27	0	3	1.08	0.43	
community.intentional	19	0	2	0.52	0.86	
community.intentional	27	0	2	1.08	0.47	
community.intentional	25	0	2	1.48	0.84	
community.intentional	16	0	1	0.44	0.84	
community.intentional	27	0	2	1.04	0.49	
community.intentional	12	0	1	0.44	0.84	
community.intentional	23	0	1	0.82	0.27	
community.intentional	12	0	1	0.44	0.84	
community.intentional	28	0	2	1.04	0.51	
community.intentional	14	0	1	0.44	0.84	
community.intentional	24	0	2	0.96	0.19	
community.intentional	20	0	2	0.8	0.74	

HyperResearch: Analysis II

The screenshot shows the HyperResearch software interface. The main window displays a list of codes with columns for 'Code Name', 'Source', and 'Type Reference'. A dialog box is open in the foreground, showing options for report generation.



