

**WORKING GROUP  
INTERVIEWING - A SUPPORT GROUP**

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Present: Julie Anghileri, Jocelyn Bell, Liz Bills, Laurinda Brown, Leone Burton, Janet Duffin, Cherry Edwards, Simon Goodchild, Rachel Griffiths, Una Hanley, Steve Lerman, Jean Melrose, Declan O'Reilly, Dora Santos, Michelle Selinger, Christine Shiu, Pinder Singh, Rosamund Sutherland, Anne Watson

This group met for the second time at Loughborough with a focus of thinking through the methodology/methods issue. Anne Watson gave a presentation 'I think I've got a methodology' which was followed by a critical commentary from Leone Burton. The discussion provoked by two contrasting and energetic presentations was focused and open. Although the session was audiotaped on 2 tapes the tape including the discussion between Anne and Leone is missing. Consequently I will not try to summarise their discussion here. To engage in some of the issues, however, you might like to read from three writers who were suggested at various times as being exemplars for academic work which shows:

- methodology developing over the time of the research
- the distinction between methods and methodologies
- a focus on ethical considerations:

Patty Laver, Carrie Herbert (*Talking of Silence*, book of PhD), Barbara Jaworski (book of PhD)

Since 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) the planning for the next session takes place at the end of the current meeting and, presumably, if there is no common concern emerging, the life of the group will have ended.

At the meeting of the group in Birmingham (14th October, 1995) some members of the group who were present in Loughborough will invite discussions about their work in progress after inputs which explore how their methodologies inform their methods of using interviewing techniques as part of their research.

Someone mentioned "tools mediating what we see". Someone else talked about "educating a way of looking - general ways of looking".

To take the discussion forward the working group is seeking:

examples of what geometry is

examples of thinking geometrically

examples of educating someone geometrically

We also want to consider

geometry as a context for other mathematics

what mathematics is geometrical

what are suitable mechanisms for sharing images

The aim is to focus on particular issues such as these and to take them forward to subsequent meetings in order to contribute to current debates and perhaps to come up with suitable research questions that could be the basis of collaborative work. The working group intends to arrange further meetings at forthcoming AMET/BSRLM events. Discussion will also continue via the mathematics education bulletin board.