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Narratives of belonging from two farm workers in rural South Africa

CITATION

Coetzee JK & Rau A. 2017. The Narrative Study of Lives: editorial notes. *Qualitative Sociology Review (QSR)*, 13(1): 6-9.

ABSTRACT

Each article in this Special Edition of *Qualitative Sociology Review* opens a window on everyday reality in central South Africa. The articles all originated from research in the program The Narrative Study of Lives, situated in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. These windows on reality display the narrative as a methodological tool in qualitative research and reveal its potential to open up better understandings of everyday experience. We also reflect on the epistemological journey towards the unwrapping and breaking open of meaning. Narratives are not the only tools available to sociologists in our quest to understand and interpret meaning. But, when it comes to deep understanding, narratives are particularly effective in opening up more intricate levels associated with emotions, feelings, and subjective experiences. All the contributions in this Special Edition reveal dimensions of the same concrete reality—the contemporary society of central South Africa. We invite readers to engage with each individual article, which provides a vignette—a brief episode—of a larger reality. We also invite you to engage with the entire collection, through which a more detailed and clearer picture of the larger reality will emerge.