



Everyone has a story.

ESQUAL/ESPHE 7240
**Life History Interviewing
Methods in Education**

Spring 2022
Mondays, 12:45–3:15
Instructor:
Antoinette Errante

This course familiarizes students with life history interviewing methods and, more generally, conversational semi-structured interviews. The class is organized as a workshop where students hone their interview guides and practice their interviewing skills.

Students are welcome to work on existing projects involving other types of semi-structured or long/multiple interview protocols.

Practice conversational interviews? Yes. Do you know when a good interviewer stops practicing? Never, that's when. Conversational interviews require improvisation and GOOD improvisation comes from practice. Improvisation has mechanics and styles and parameters and is based on a skilled understanding of the conversation, whether it be jazz players engaged in a musical conversation, actors engaged in dramatic improvisation or you engaged in conversation with your participant. Improvisational conversations do not result from chaos but mastery of those mechanics and styles and parameters until they become automatic. It is that automaticity that frees you to be fully present in your exchange with participants/narrators, meet them where they are in each moment of the conversation, and know what, when, and how to ask questions that are worth asking. That automaticity only comes through practice. In this class you will hone your improvisational interviewing muscles. Come join us! You will find a supportive environment where taking risks and making the mistakes necessary for mastery are encouraged! Please feel free to contact Dr. Errante at errante.1@osu.edu if you have any questions.