

**Symposium: Methodological reflections on narrating the self:
Studying life stories of young men with prison experiences**

Where to start? How to begin? Telling a life story in prison

Anke Neuber, Dipl. Soz.Wiss.

Abstract

Using the method of sequential analysis, this presentation will explore and compare the introductory and beginning sequences of thirty biographical interviews with young men in prison. The paper will address and discuss the specific features and difficulties of the telling of a life story in the context of an institution. It will also consider the prison setting as well as the interview situation and age of the interviewees. It will result in a critical discussion of the importance of the beginning sequence for biographical analysis. Furthermore, the interpretation will shed light on different strategies of dealing with narrating the self in an institution of social control.