Methodological flexibility in the study of new objects: methodological craftsmanship in a qualitative research on the Slash Generation

Eduardo Carneiro Lima¹, Ana Cristina Batista dos Santos²

¹Program of Postgraduation in Administration, State University of Ceará, Brazil. educl.lima@gmail.com
²Program of Postgraduation in Administration, State University of Ceará, Brazil. ana.batista@uece.br

The research articulates the themes generation slash, careers and, mainly, the methodological flexibilization adopted to approach new objects. Slash means bar, graphic signal used to separate the dates or the multiple functions of a person. The dynamic life and full of simultaneous and different professional activities, complementary or not, define the profile of this new generation of workers. The research had an entirely qualitative orientation, believing that the "most central methodological primacy of constructing a research with qualitative orientation is exactly that of being a [permanent] construction" (Albandes-Moreira, 1993, p.74). We find that current discussions on the subject have gained space as the number of professionals in the slash condition has increased (Eugenio, 2012). Since this object is not linearly structured, we assume then, that a methodological rigidity to study it could be misleading. The object requested a "methodological mix" for data collection and analysis. For data collection, we used in-depth interviews, on-site observations and social networks. For the analysis of the data, it was used, preliminarily, the elaboration of literary tales on the subjects of research. Complementarily, the thematization of the data is being processed using the technique of the analysis of the sense nuclei. The field research was carried out between September and November 2017, in two Brazilian cities - Fortaleza and São Paulo - with the participation of five subjects: two women and three men, ranging in age from 30 to 50 years. Access to the subjects was based on the relations of the researchers and the fulfillment of the condition of being a slasher, that is to say, is currently involved with two professional activities in parallel. We look at the collected data and let the "perceive" take care of our looks. We understood that it was necessary to write immediately about the field, from the lived experiences, with reflections and emotions occupying the same status of analytical resource to try to achieve interesting results. In addition to the in-depth interviews - whose conversations were recorded and transcribed for a total of 220 minutes, from observations with field diary notes and countless exchanges of impressions and feelings among researchers, after each encounter through whatsapp - we write literary tales about subjects trying to see details that stand out when using the literary poetics, but that probably escape when an objective description of the data. Good and long face-to-face and virtual meetings between researchers generated rich discussions about the process of data analysis, which is in the process of completion using the technique of the analysis of sense nuclei (Minayo, 2004). We conclude that the subject-subject relationship was a fundamental point and the balance between reflections and emotions assumed an important analytical resource status for reaching the results.

Keywords: Slash generation. Careers. Methodological flexibility

---

¹We thank CNPq and Funcap for the financial assistance.
References

