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# Resistance in narratives

## Listening to health care professionals concerns

### Purpose

Focusing the interconnection of methodology and theory, we are interested in how analysing narratives can contribute to unveiling voices of resistance in stories of working conditions.

This project focus on working conditions in health care investigating health care professionals' concerns.

The study is based on 33 in-depth interviews, collected in Sweden during the first weeks after the WHO in March 2020 defined the spread of the Corona virus as an pandemic (March—May 2020).

The interviews aimed to capture experiences of working conditions focusing on the narrative question: "Tell me about your latest working day".

### Voices and resistances in narratives

Narratives can be described as the process of meaning-making in which phenomena are interpreted and reflected upon. From this, we argue that voice, understood as the expression of ideas and concerns, as well as an act of resistance, can be captured through narrative theory and method.

Looking at resistances in narratives of everyday work, we can find the relation between descriptions of particular working conditions and their social organization. At the local level we find people's actions, experiences and stories that challenge stagnated practices and their social organization.



### Narrative analysis as an act of listening

In this project, narrative analysis is used as a framework emphasizing the act of listening to the stories of care professionals. Based on the understanding that the act of listening as a political counterforce in a society where the (loudly) spoken language are given priority, and the ethics and relational perspectives of listening, the analysis will focus on voice and the act of listening itself. Through the *listening* we explore narratives. By connecting stories in narratives to how they are structured by moments in time and place we focus on voices and resistances not only where they are (loudly) expressed but also in the stories of everyday life work.

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Based on experience in theories on privilege and resistance informed by feminist theory (Bergman) and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis (Wall) we hope to tease out the connections between the concerns of health care professionals' working conditions and the social organization of these working conditions as expressed through narratives. Through the network of EAWOP, the research will be enriched by the opportunity for widening and deepening perspectives on working conditions within health care, through the experience of other researchers, as well as through interdisciplinary and international research on working conditions within the health care sector.