

Name of collection

Video 3 - Student

Judy Chandler:

Ethical considerations underpin my entire study and enable me to question the influences that might be at play in my research design. For instance, beliefs and values, my own identity as a professional and as a researcher, and the related power dynamics. And power is particularly significant, as my study is about equity-- equity within in the institutional structure and also within the sector.

I referred to the British Educational Research Association Bureau guidelines and guidance from within my own institution. The guidance was helpful in drawing my attention to various responsibilities that researchers have to different groups of people connected with the research, such as participants, the stakeholders, the research community, and also myself as a researcher.

Yes, I made an ethical application to my university research ethics committee. My professional role within the institution as an academic leader interviewing administrative managers with a view to exploring the power dynamic among leadership within the institution is certainly a significant challenge. I've kept a research diary throughout the interviews in order to capture my own reactions to interviews, which I would later be able to critically analyze in relation to my own position not only as a researcher and research instrument, but also as a staff member who occupies a role that participants might have a specific view of and vice versa.

Another issue was ensuring sufficient anonymity for my participants. The sample size being relatively small and the participants being quite open when responding to questions led to my decision to present a cross-case study in my write-up as opposed to writing about detailed individual cases, and this strengthened the anonymity of, and thus protected, my participants.