

Connections to Home:

Immigrant Material Culture in Northern Utah



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Material culture is an important component in the way we make sense
of our everyday

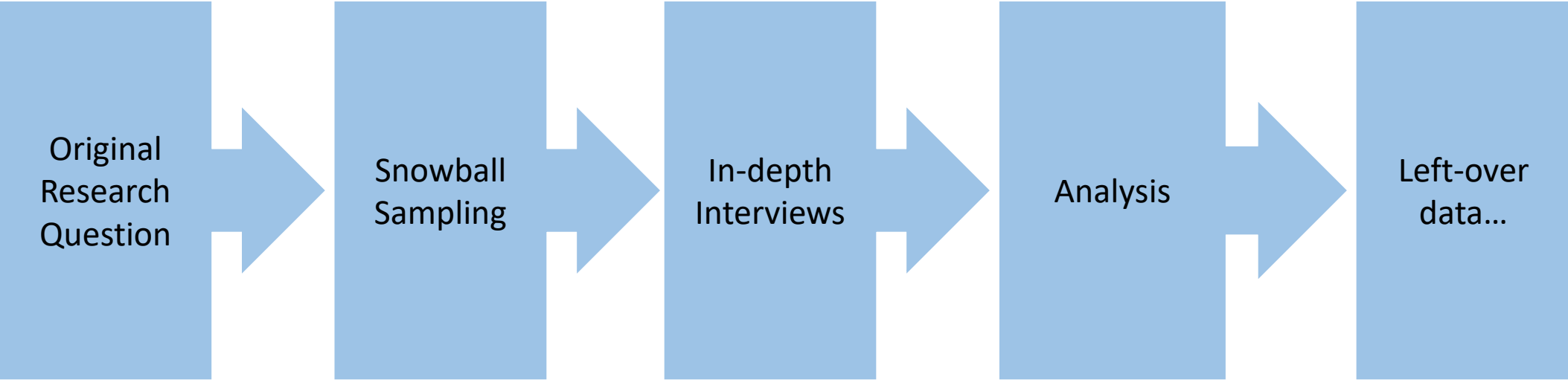
The objects we surround ourselves with and the meanings we assign to
them help shape our perceptions of the environment

They play a role in the ebbs and flows of how we communicate and
perform in it

What we choose to keep, what we keep as a treasure

The *whats* and *hows* of what we give and receive tells a story that goes
beyond a commodity exchange.





“Ni de aqui, ni de allá”

Neither from here nor from there

How does a group of Latin American immigrants living in Cache Valley maintain connections to “home” through material culture?

Methods

Code interviews in NVivo for:

- What
- How
- Why
- Building Home

File Home Import Create Explore Share

Paste Copy Merge Clipboard

Cut Properties Open Memo Link Item

Add To Set Create As Code Create As Cases

Query Visualize Explore

Code Auto Code Range Code Uncode Coding

Case Classification File Classification Classification

Detail View Sort By Undock Navigation View List View Find Workspace

Nodes Search Project

Name	Files	References
Budget Cut Option	1	2
Progress	1	2
Questions for Resi	1	1

Drag selection here to code to a new node

Local Government Sample Proje x Questions for Residents

[Click to edit](#)

Background:

UK Local Government have been faced with significant budget cuts from the central government. As of 2015 they are half way through a scheduled 40 per cent cut in funding that commenced in 2011. Councils have been required to increase efficiencies and reduce staff to make these savings, while maintaining services to their communities.

Many Councils are now undergoing public consultation with their residents as they prepare their future budgets where cuts and reductions in services are inevitable.

This project contains three documents relating to the budget cuts public consultation process.

Under pressure - how councils are planning for future cuts and **Future funding - initial draft** are reports that describe Local Government situation in the UK and give the survey sample data some context.

Budget Consultation Survey is a dataset from a survey that was conducted by a UK Council with its residents in preparation for its annual budget. Residents were asked about the cuts, if they agreed with the Councils budget priorities, and if they thought the council should increase Council tax to help address the funding gap. Residents were also asked two open ended questions asking them if they had any further comments on the Councils budget options, or any suggestions on ways Council could save money.

In Nodes Code At Budget Cut Options (Nodes)

Document Tools

File Home Import Create Explore Share Document

Memo Link See Also Link Zoom Quick Coding Layout Annotations See Also Links Relationships Coding Stripes Highlight Code Code In Vivo Auto Code Range Code Uncode New Annotation Annotations Word Cloud Chart Compare With Explore Diagram Query This Document Find Edit

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Coding Density

Progress

Budget Cut Options

Questions for Residents

In Nodes Code At Budget Cut Options (Nodes)

File Home Import Create Explore Share Node

Links: Memo Link, See Also Link, Content

View: Annotations, See Also Links, Relationships

Coding: Coding Stripes, Highlight, Code, Uncode from This Node, Spread Coding, Uncode

Visualize Node: Chart, Compare With, Explore Diagram

Query: Query This Node, Find

Nodes Search Project

Name	Files	References
Budget Cut Option		2
Progress		2
Questions for Resi		1

Drag selection here to code to a new node

Local Government Sample Proj Questions for Residents

<Files\\Local Government Sample Project Overview> - 5 1 reference coded [18.58% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 18.58% Coverage

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Summary
Reference
Text

In Nodes Code At Budget Cut Options (Nodes)

File Home Import Create Explore Share

Clipboard: Paste, Cut, Copy, Merge

Item: Properties, Open, Memo Link, Add To Set, Create As Code, Create As Cases

Explore: Query, Visualize

Coding: Code, Auto Code, Range Code, Uncode

Classification: Case Classification, File Classification

Workspace: Detail View, Sort By, Undock, Navigation View, List View, Find

Nodes Search Project

Name	Files	References	Created On	Created By	Modified On	Modified By
Created		3	3 4/6/2022 12:16 PM	AB	4/7/2022 11:59 PM	AB
encargos		13	45 4/6/2022 12:12 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:56 AM	AB
gifts		16	122 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:57 AM	AB
Giver		8	9 4/6/2022 3:13 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:25 AM	AB
Origin to US		13	49 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:59 AM	AB
effect		0	0 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/6/2022 12:13 PM	AB
emotional		6	9 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:41 AM	AB
interpersonal		3	3 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:41 AM	AB
mobilities		6	8 4/6/2022 3:10 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:38 AM	AB
objects		12	13 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:38 AM	AB
use		6	6 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:41 AM	AB
why		9	9 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:40 AM	AB
US to Origin		15	63 4/6/2022 12:14 PM	AB	4/8/2022 1:00 AM	AB
Identity		3	3 4/7/2022 3:27 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:40 AM	AB
Interpersonal Connection		1	1 4/6/2022 12:17 PM	AB	4/7/2022 11:46 PM	AB
Remember		6	9 4/6/2022 12:16 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:27 AM	AB
sentimental object		16	32 4/6/2022 12:15 PM	AB	4/8/2022 12:49 AM	AB
Sharina Food		0	0 4/6/2022 12:17 PM	AB	4/6/2022 12:17 PM	AB

AB 110 Items

Results



From Country of Origin to the U.S.

- Encargos: using social networks to request specific items
- Gifts: non-requested items



Zocalo Foods



Building a Connection to Home

- Remember roots
- Not so important what it was, but *who* gave it
 - → interpersonal connection in country of origin
- Sharing
 - → interpersonal connection in new country



From U.S. to the Country of Origin

- What: Clothes and Electronics
- How: Travel, friends, organizations
- Why: Ritual; Cheap
- Effect:
 - U.S. becomes part of their **identity** as others define them
 - **New interpersonal relationships in U.S.**

Sentimental Objects



- Objects from country of origin
 - → Objects represent people
- Objects created or obtained in the U.S.
 - → creating new memories (home)

Conclusion

Material objects help immigrants make and maintain relationships in their home country and the U.S., thereby allowing them to connect to home.

Thank you