

Abstract: "Creating Knowledge. A Workshop about Theory Building in Case-  
Reconstructive Research in Social Sciences"  
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Ina Alber (ialber@uni-goettingen.de), Anna Ransiek (aransie@uni-goettingen.de),  
University of Goettingen

### **Dealing with discourses. Methodological discussions about the relation of biographies and discourses.**

The paper we are going to present has evolved from repeating and active discussions of methodological questions during our PhD research. In our projects we try to triangulate biographical research and discourse analysis. In consideration of the tradition of social constructivism and the sociology of knowledge we understand discourses as structured and institutionalised ways of speaking which express certain social rules and terms. Discourses as social rules and terms are integrated in biographies and at the same time produced and reproduced through the biographers' actions. Discourses can therefore be reconstructed in life stories - not only from today's perspective but also from the perspective of the biographer at certain stages in her/his life.

Our paper focuses on the reconstruction of discourses in the biography itself as discourses are not 'free-floating constructs' but tied to actual and acting persons who do participate in, create and reproduce discourses in many different ways. That is why we want to take a closer look at the narration itself with a discourse analytical approach at the level of a biographical case. By using this methodologically controlled approach we aim to shed light on the interrelation between biography and discourse in their process-oriented nature.

In our paper we would like to present our approach and critically discuss its potentials and difficulties. Both methodological issues (the principles of abduction, micro analysis of text fragments etc.) and the question of theoretical generalisation shall be considered.