

The emic/etic hermeneutic

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The CCT Workshop organizers noted that students have been asking:

How can one have an ongoing conversation between macro-level theory and micro-level data, say individual interviews?

Agenda

- Importance of the question.
- Re-framing the question.
- Illustration from my own research.

Important question in Sociology

- William G. Sumner (1840-1910)
- Lester F. Ward (1841-1913)
- Albion W. Small (1854-1926)
- Franklin H. Giddings (1855-1926)
- John Dewey (1859-1952)
- George H. Mead (1863-1931)
- Charles H. Cooley (1864-1929)
- Edward A. Ross (1866-1951)
- Talcott Parsons (1902-1979)
- C. Wright Mills (1916-1962)

Can we nurture the quality of mind essential to grasp the interplay of people and society, of biography and history, of self and world?



What is the emic/etic hermeneutic?

It is an attempt to turn away from the epistemological debate involving objectivity and turn instead to a methodological solution.

*We can also think about it as an
organizational skill*

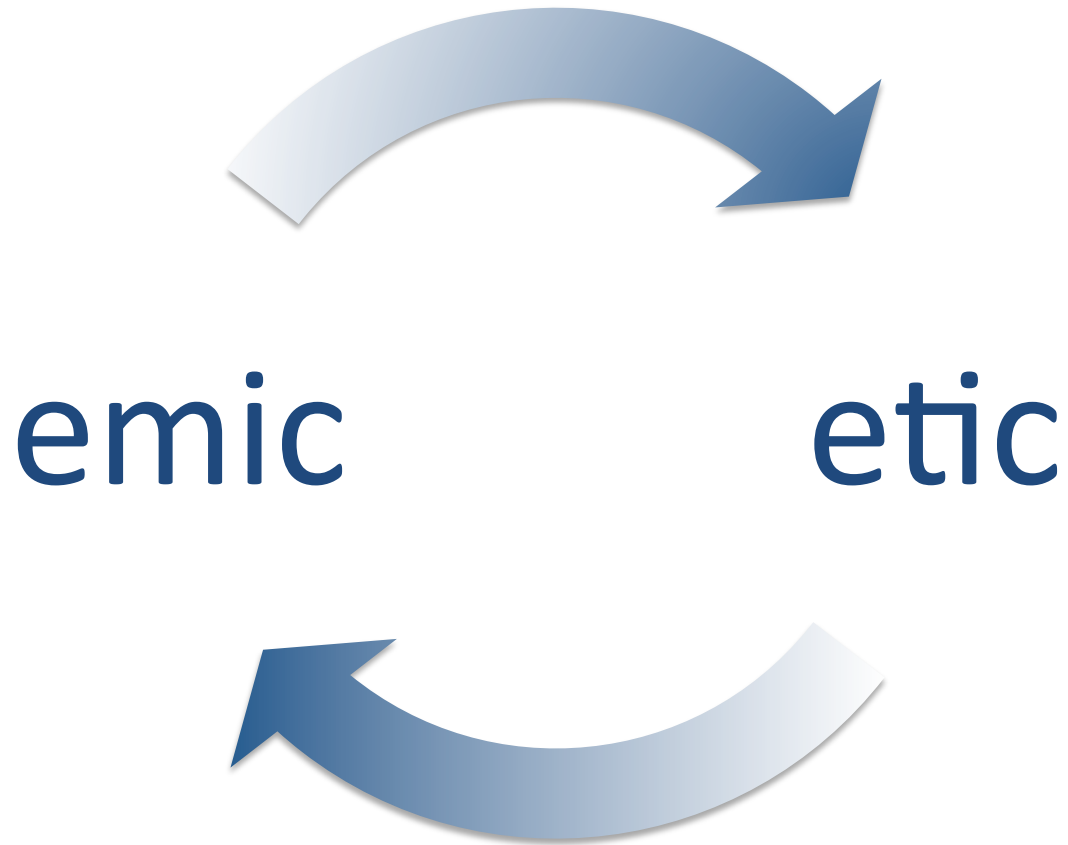
Emic

- Derived from the linguistic term phonemic.
- A description of experience that is meaningful to the actor.
- Voices from the field (transcript).

Etic

- Derived from the linguistic term phonetic.
- A description of experience that is meaningful to the researcher.
- Theory that orients the researcher.

The key: a creative balance



How do we create this balance?

Reflexive Dispossession and the Self: Constructing a Processual Theory of Identity

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Motivation

“In reviewing the last twenty years of interpretive research, Arnould and Thompson (2005) note that dispossession practices have received comparatively less attention yet it is clear that they play a significant role in identity negotiation” (p. 2).

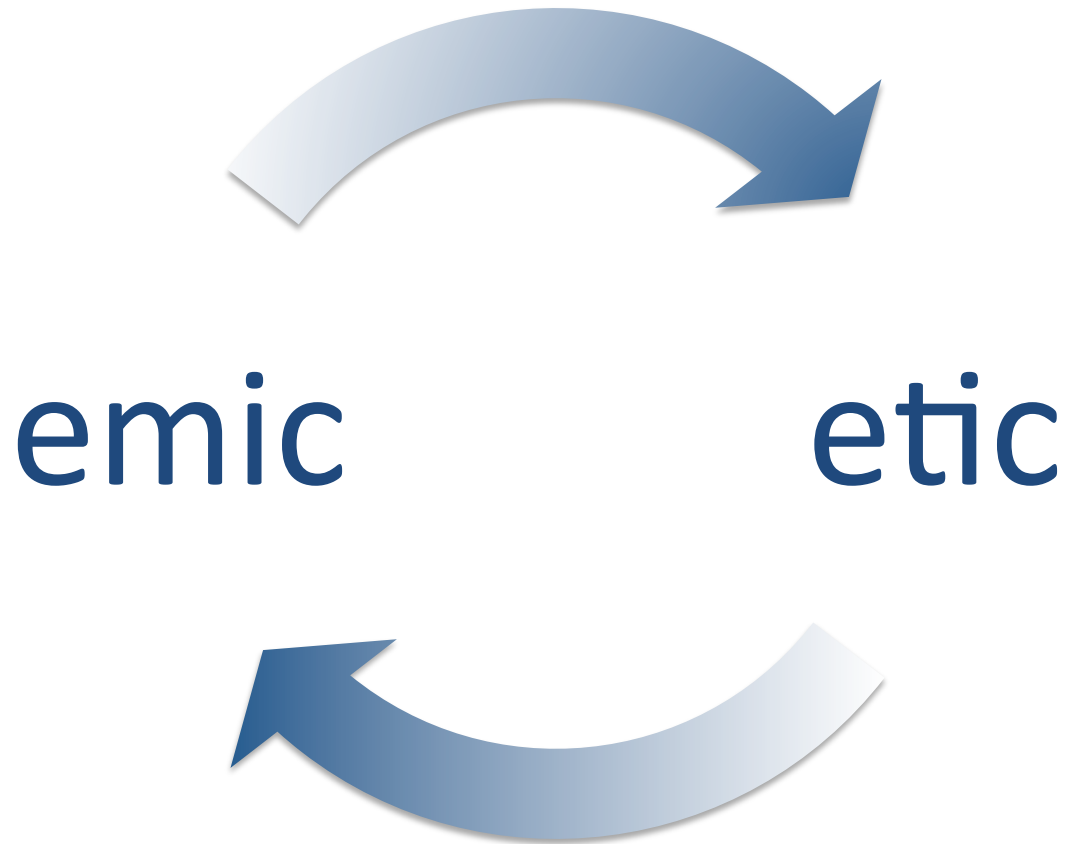
What role do dispossession practices play in identity negotiation?

Can we better explain the “process” of identity negotiation?

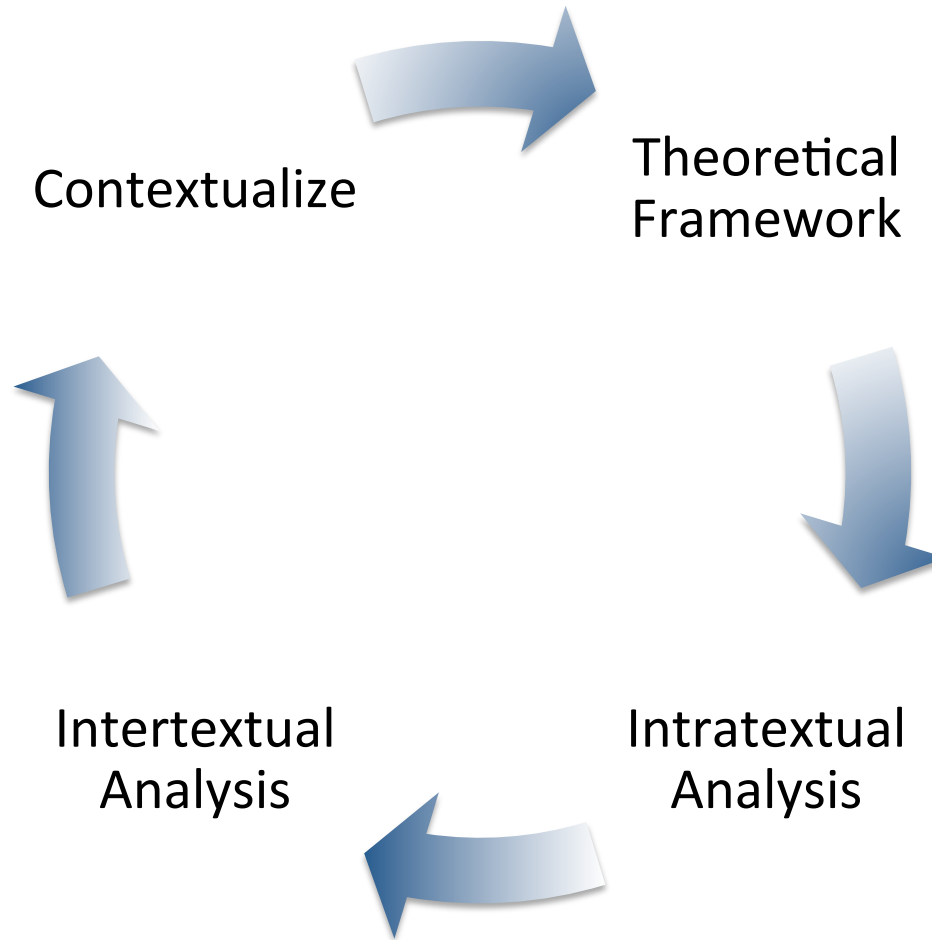
Conceptual Framework

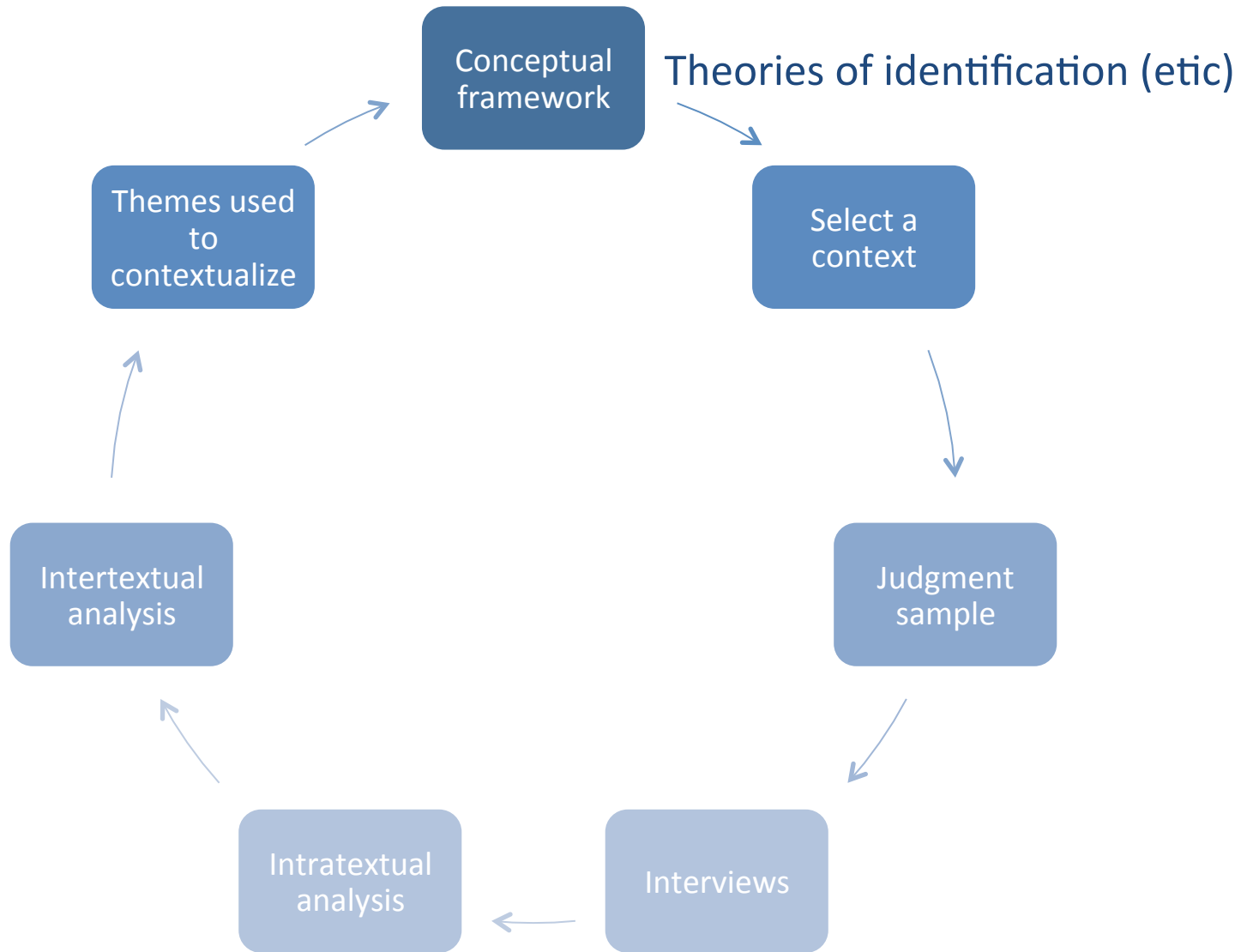
“We refer to identity as ‘processual’ to indicate that identity is not something that is constructed and then finished but is instead a continuous process of negotiating different dimensions of the self (i.e., distinction, social integration, continuity, and change) and constraining social structures” (p. 2).

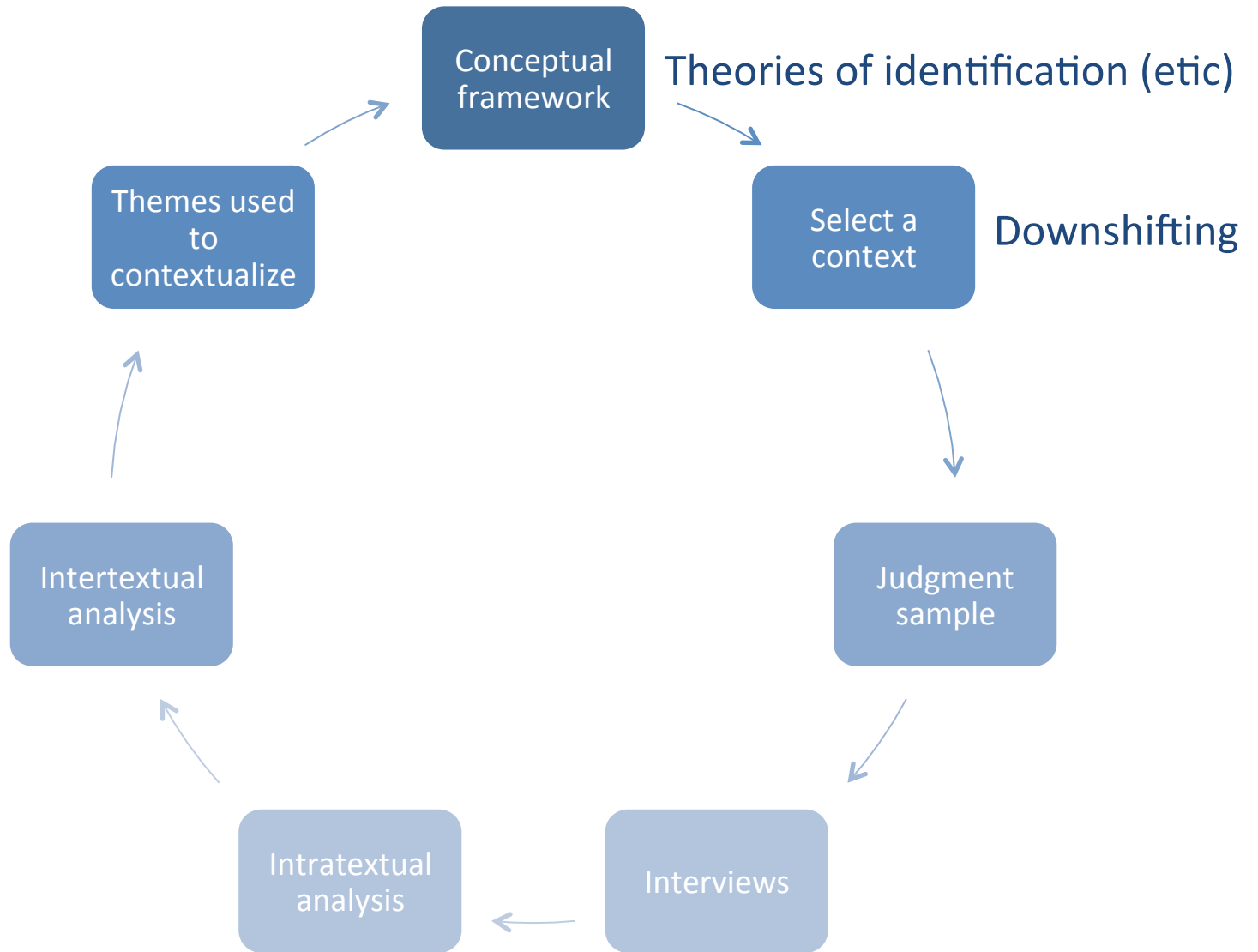
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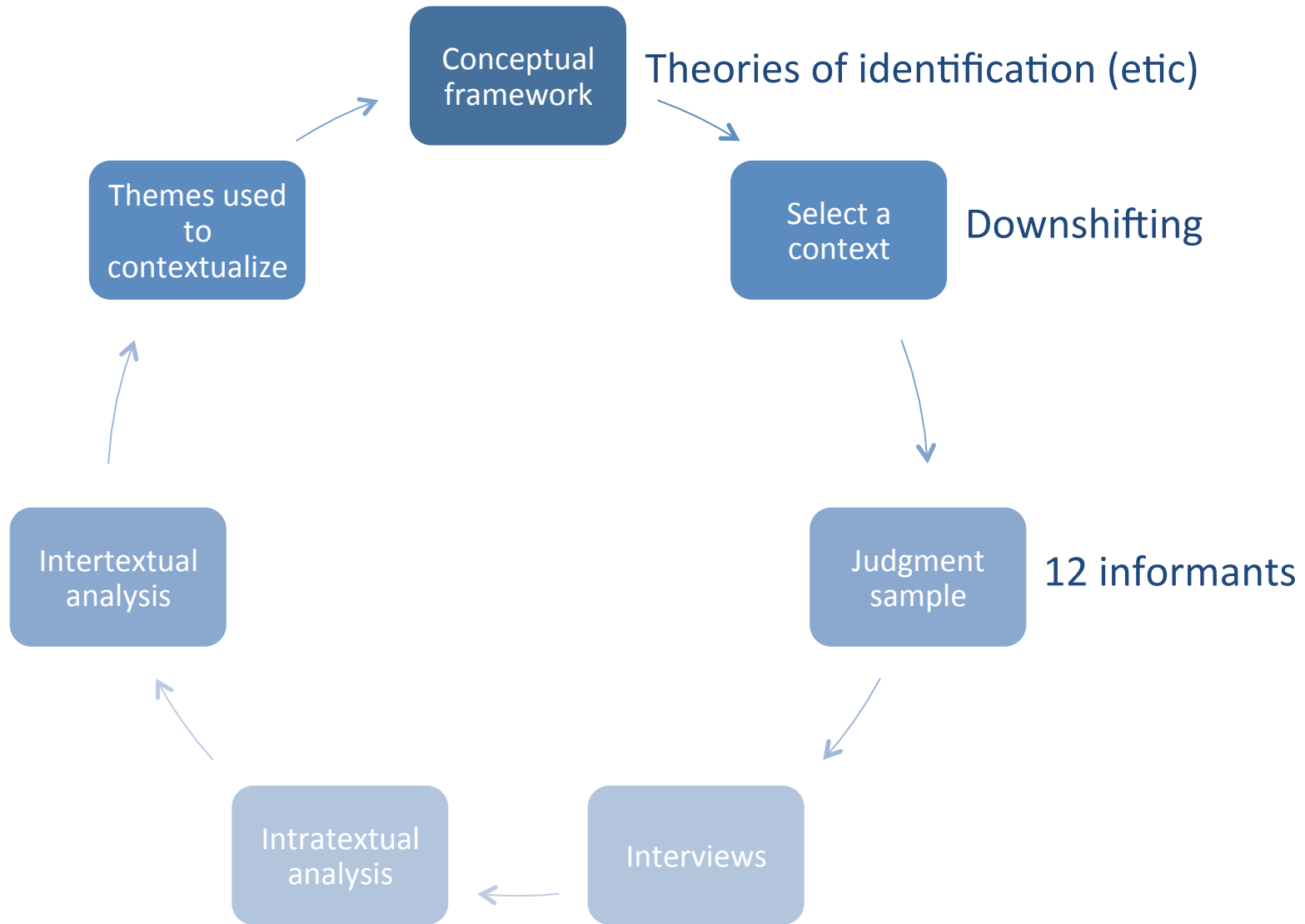


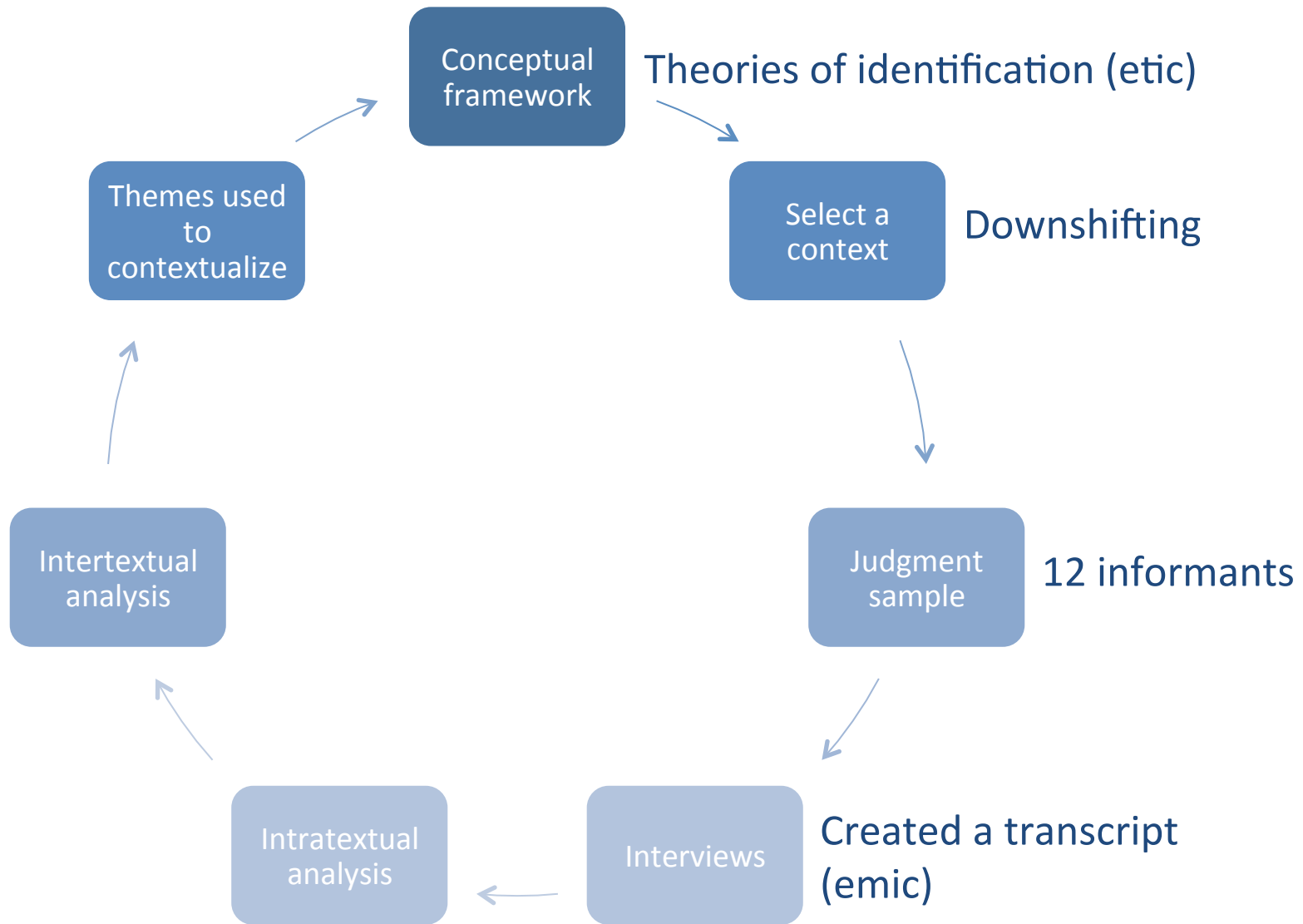
A bit more articulated...

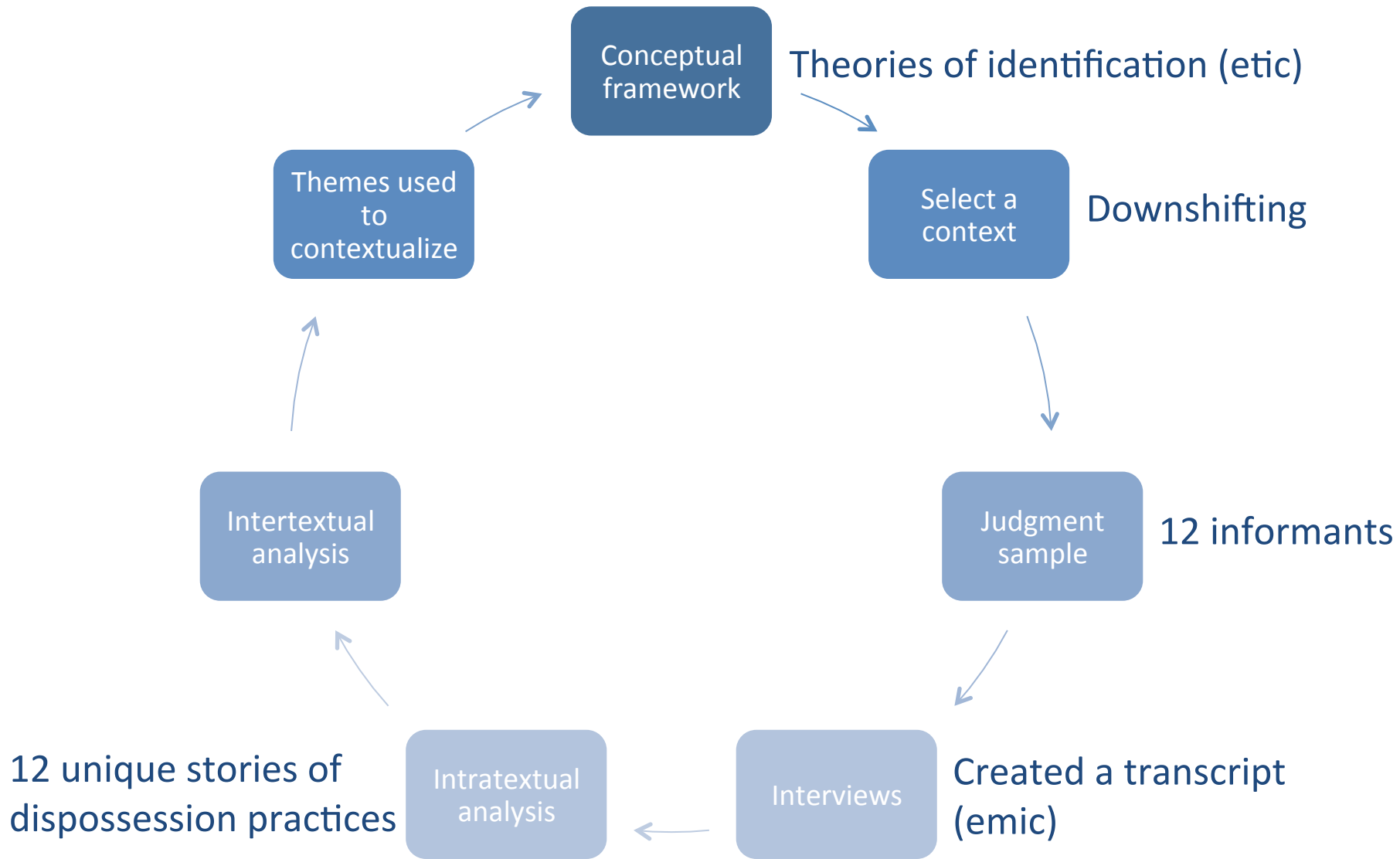


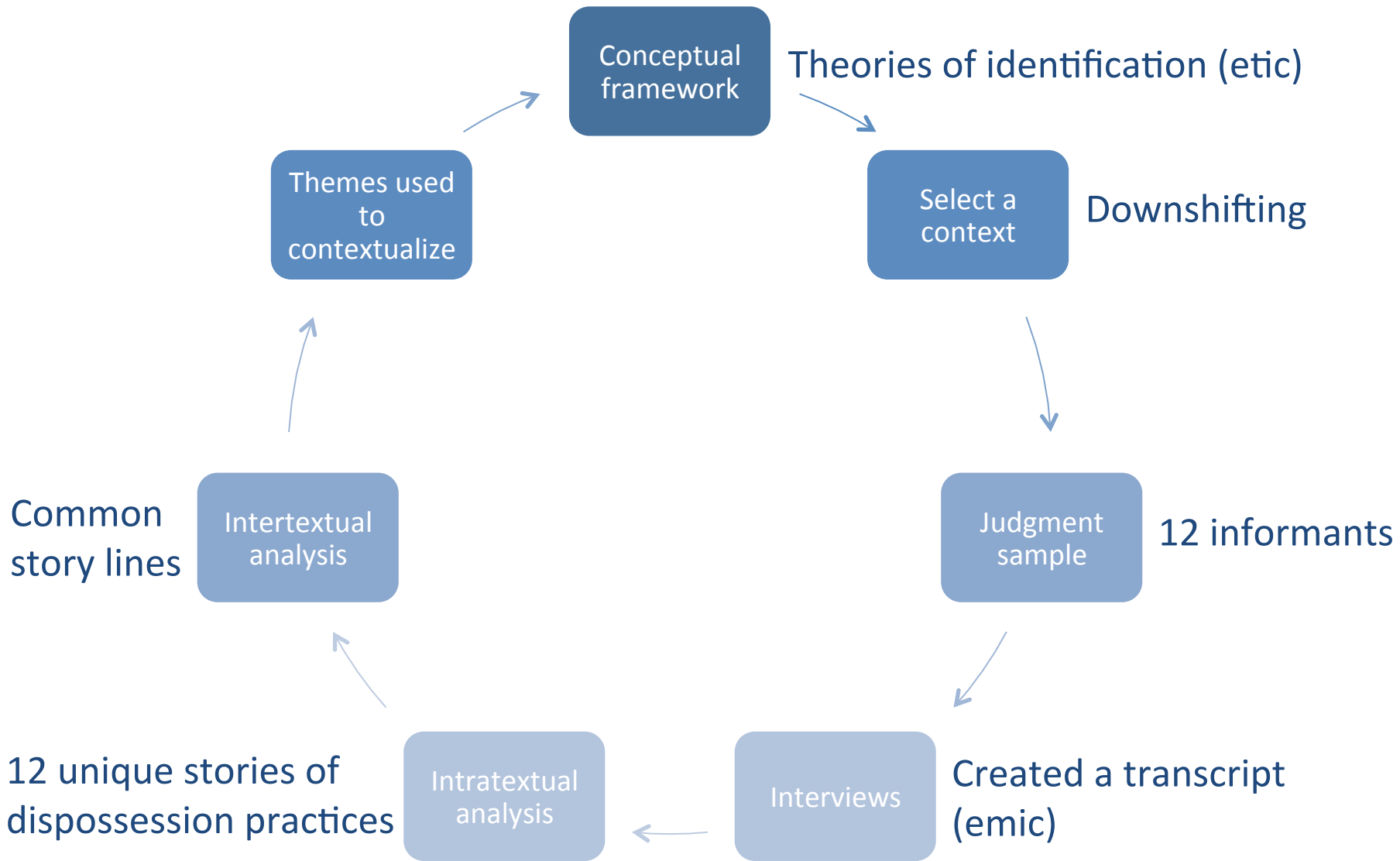


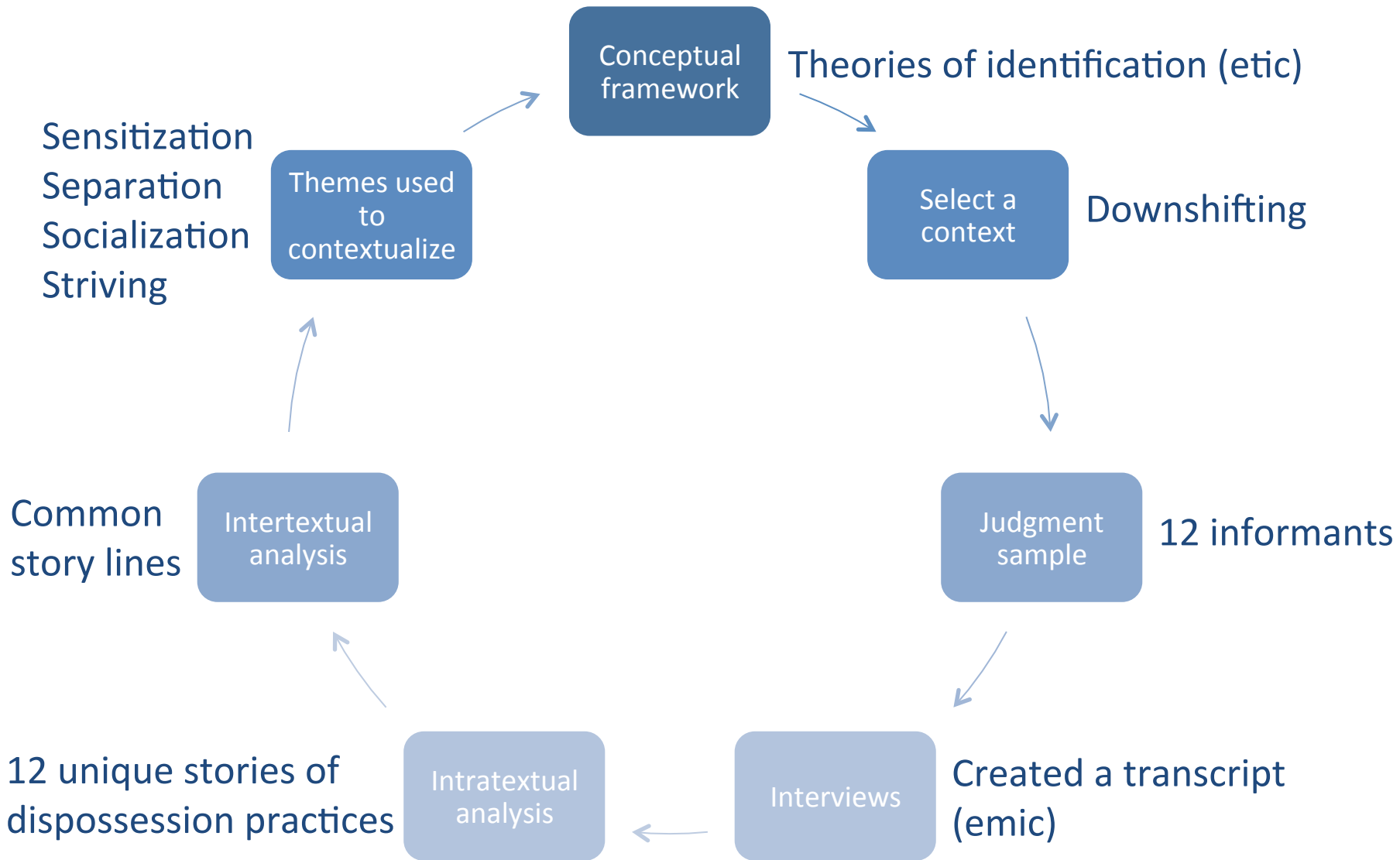






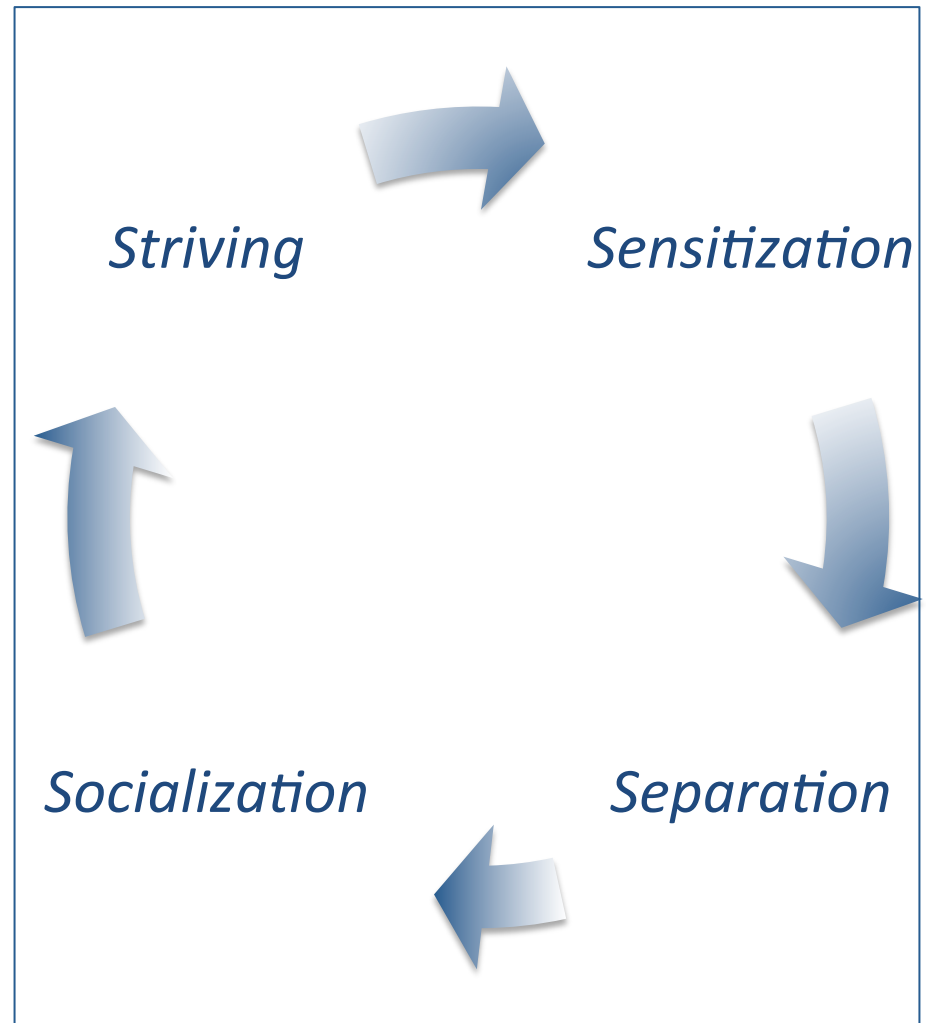






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- Think of it as an organizational skill.
- You can learn this skill, but it takes practice.
- It is iterative and developmental.

questions