

Photo-elicitation and time-lining to enhance the research interview:
exploring the quarterlife crisis of young adults in India and the United
Kingdom

Published in Qualitative Research in Psychology

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14780887.2018.1545068>

Raginie Duara, Siobhan Hugh-Jones and Anna Madill,

School of Psychology, University of Leeds

Abstract

The aim of this article is to convey our experience of using photo-elicitation and time-lining to enhance the research interview. We reflect on a study on the “quarterlife crisis” in India and the United Kingdom. Participants were ages 22–30 and self-defined as having experienced difficulties “finding their place in the world.” There were 16 British (8 women, 8 men) and 8 Indian participants (4 women, 4 men). First, we consider how photo-elicitation proved highly compatible with our method of analysis, interpretative phenomenological analysis, through affording a deep connection with participant experience. Second, we explore how participants engaged with photo-elicitation and time-lining, providing examples of image content (events and feelings), image form (literal and symbolic), and creative use of timelines. Third, we reflect on how photo-elicitation and time-lining appeared to enhance participant agency, have a therapeutic value for participants, and provide particularly rich material for analysis.