

“... I actually liked it”

Case-contrasting of biographical data with MAXQDA

¹ Birgit Senft, ² Maria Helene Aichholzer-Pahr, ¹ Paul Tschierske ² Beate Gfrerer
¹ statistix - Freelance evaluator, ² Bildungsberatung Kärnten

Background and goals:

Advisory processes are described as complex and interactive. Clients should be more informed, more oriented, more structured and strengthened after the consultation. The evaluation of effects cannot be detached of professional and social contexts [1]. According to the literature, the influencing effects on educational decisions are family (beliefs of the parents), the education system and the young themselves (beliefs, activities, knowledge) [2]. People command different career management skills as adults based on their experiences (knowledge and skills, motivation, environment, activities) [3]. This means that there is a broad spectrum of advisory clients and three types of consultation described in the literature: informative counseling, situative counseling and biography-oriented counseling [4]. These complex events demand high-level expertise and flexibility from the counselors.

Key questions of the study:

- Which biographical characteristics shape the educational and professional biographies of the clients?
- Which differences in the counseling result occur depending on those biographical facts?
- How can the results of complex processes and contexts be depicted so that they are of use for the consulting team?

Methods:

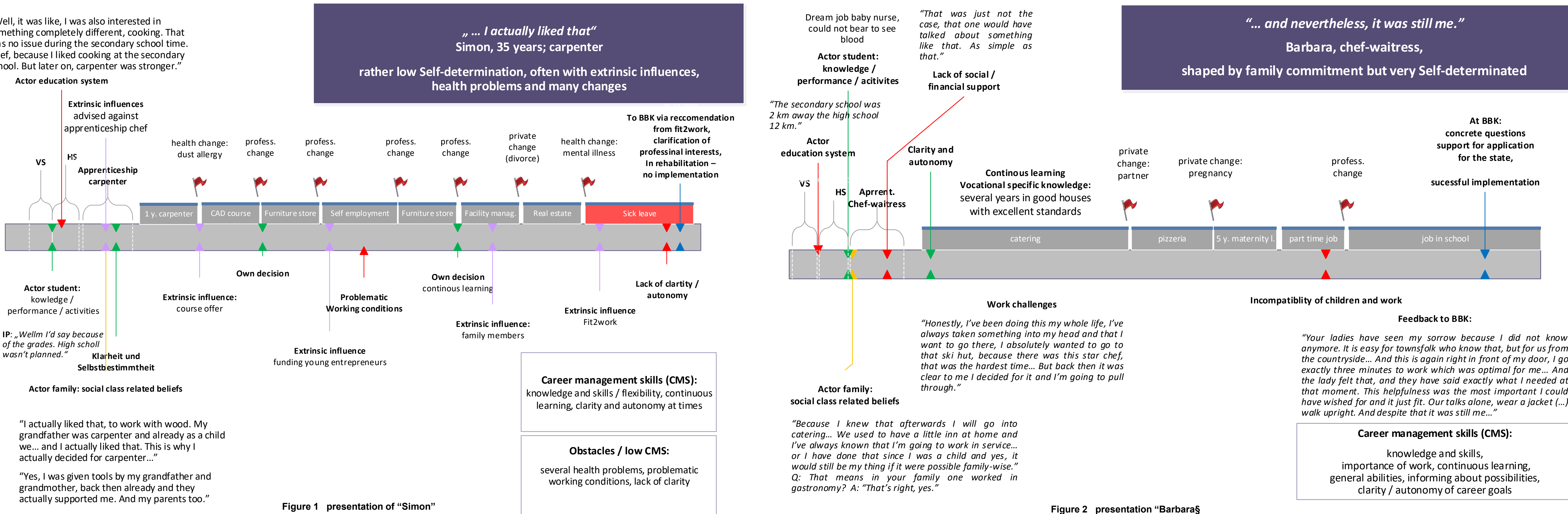
Episodic (biographical) interview

This method is suitable to capture biographical processes and can be implemented as a combination of narration and inquiry. The focus of the inquiry was on the educational and professional biography which is why a pure narrative method was not used. The implementation was oriented by a guideline with requests to the clients to tell in their own words.

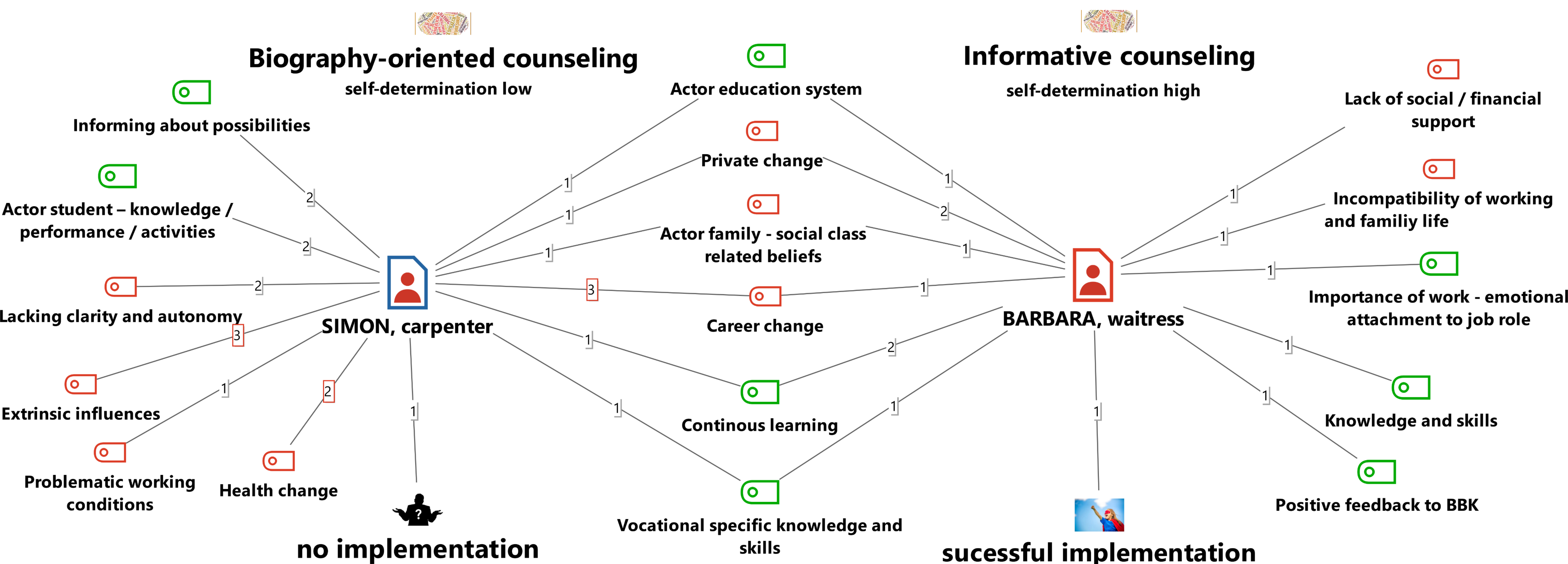
Qualitative content analysis:

After the complete transcription of the data the coding procedure was conducted in orientation on grounded theory in MAXQDA [5]. After the open, axial, and selective coding the building of prototypical cases followed. Finally, a model was developed following the coding paradigm of Strauß.

Biographical analysis of the educational and professional career



Case contrasting – two-case-model



Results and learnings of the project

- There are relevant influencing factors in the biographies of the clients on the educational decision
- Many biographies are characterized by numerous changes
- Their clients are in very different starting positions and have very different expectations at the time of counseling
- Influencing factors described in the literature have been confirmed in varying strength
- The visualizations of the biographies show the complexity of the cases and make the understanding of the case easier
- The graphic case contrast enables an analysis of relations next to the comparison of prototypical cases
- The visualization of data was very valuable for the case supervision of the counselors and informative for the funder

References

- Schlögl, P., Mayerl, M., & Schmidtke, B. (2018). *Effekte-Nutzen-Wirkung in der Bildungsberatung: Projektabschlussbericht des Österreichischen Instituts für Berufsbildungsforschung (öibf)*. Wien. Retrieved from <http://www.oebf.at/db/calimero/tools/proxy.php?id=15490>
- Neuenschwander, M. P. (2017). Schultransitionen - ein Arbeitsmodell. In M. P. Neuenschwander & C. Nägele (Eds.), *Bildungsverläufe von der Einschulung bis in den ersten Arbeitsmarkt* (pp. 3–20). Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden.
- Hirschi, A., Hänggli, M., Nagy, N., Baumeler, F., Johnston, C., & Spurk, D. (2019). Karriere-Ressourcen messen. *Diagnostica*, 65(3), 133–141. <https://doi.org/10.1026/0012-1924/a000219>
- Gieseke, W., & Stimm, M. (2016). *Praktiken der professionellen Bildungsberatung*. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-10878-6>
- VERBI Software (2019). MAXQDA 2020. Berlin: Consult. Sozialforschung GmbH. Retrieved from maxqda.com

Contact: Birgit Senft, clinical psychologist, Master of Evaluation
 Höhenweg 1, 9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
 Liechtensteinstraße 22/3/11, 1090 Vienna
www.statistix.at

