

COUNTERING THE MASTER

‘Storied Selves in not doing crime’

European Society of Criminology (ESC)

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[Narrative Criminology]

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Resistance to crime...

Explorative narrative (lifestory) research based on understanding what contributes to NOT developing a criminal career while being raised in or being exposed to a dominant criminal environment (resistance to crime). > resisters

Life stories as 'Storied Selves'

'Stories are examples of the performative work individuals do to themselves and their surroundings.'

(Presser, 2010)

'A persons identity is not found in behaviour, nor- important though this is – in the reactions of others, but in the capacity to keep a particular narrative going.'

What will you be?

(Giddens, 1991:54).

Positioning theory

(Davis & Harre, 1990)

Storied ID: Narrative identity means a plurality depending on context/surroundings



'Master & Counternarratives'

Focusing on...

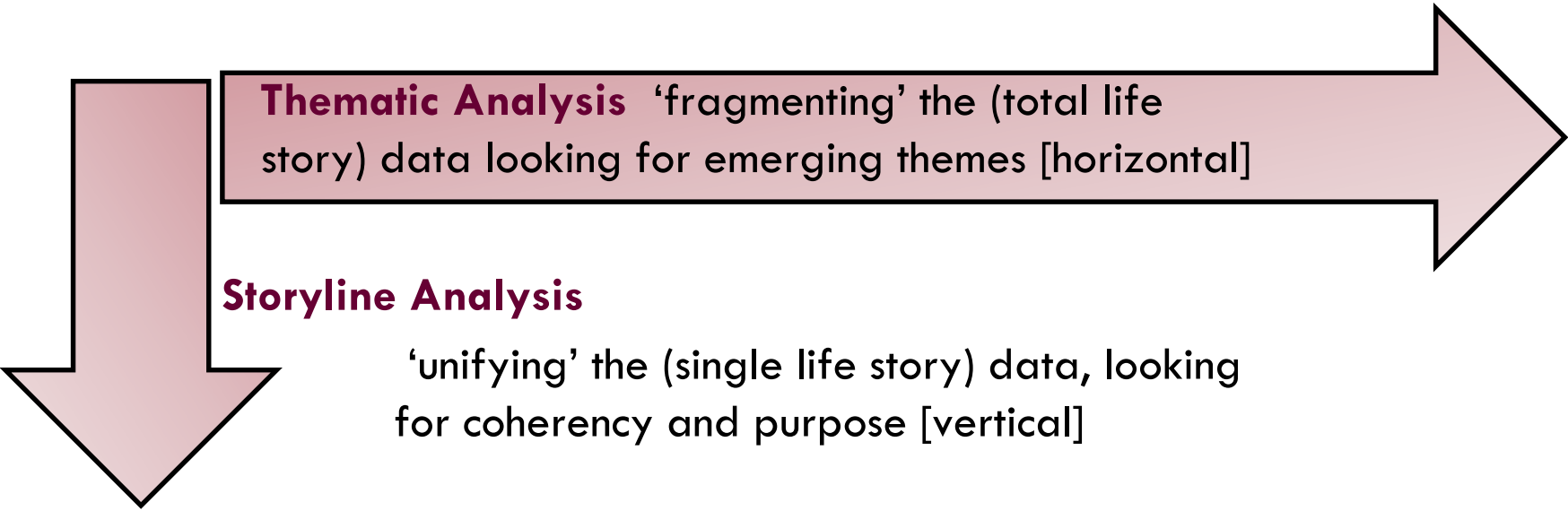
How do resisters position themselves in their lifestories regarding different context specific (master/counter)narratives ?

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- Juridische Hogeschool
Avans-Fontys

Data Analysis...

‘Studies of narratives in general and narrative criminology in particular should analyze self-narratives as agency conditioned by culture and context, and as attempts at coherency and unity drawing on a wider variety of cultural narratives and discourses.’ (Sandberg, 2013:81).



Thematic Analysis ‘fragmenting’ the (total life story) data looking for emerging themes [horizontal]

Storyline Analysis

‘unifying’ the (single life story) data, looking for coherency and purpose [vertical]

Storyline Analysis - *Positioning levels*

**HOW DO RESISTERS
POSITION THEMSELVES
IN THEIR LIFESTORY?**

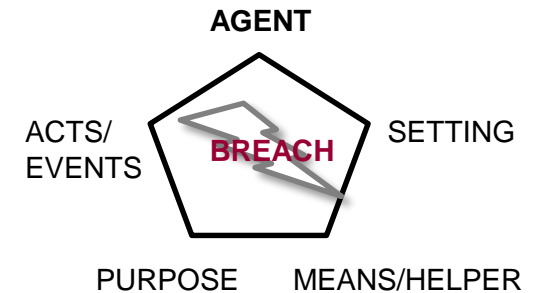
1. Vis-a-vis
others

**HOW DO RESISTERS
POSITION THEMSELVES
IN INTERACTION WITH ME
AS A RESEARCHER?**

2. Interactional

**HOW DO RESISTERS
POSITION THEMSELVES
IN A WIDER, SOCIETAL
CONTEXT?**

3. Wider: societal, cultural
context



(Also see Bamberg, 1997:337; 2004; 2012; Sools, 2010; Bahktin, 1981; 2004:694; Squire in Andrews, Squire & Tamboukou, 2009:43; Mishler, 2004; Salmon & Riessman in Andrews, Squire & Tamboukou 2013:197ev; Phoenix in Andrews et al., 2013:72ev; Riesmann, 2008).

Preliminary findings [Level 1]

HOW DO RESISTERS POSITION THEMSELVES IN THEIR LIFESTORY?

“ I was always kept out somehow..(..) Sometimes It literally was told that I was some kind of ... Torchbearer of the family you know.. Like: you are one of the smarter ones, you came a long way, so now you must continue on the road to succes...” (Maarten, 32 years)

Resisters 'storied selves'...
are positioned as being 'the
('good') other' (urge/pressure to achieve)



Preliminary findings [Level 2]

HOW DO RESISTERS POSITION THEMSELVES IN INTERACTION WITH ME?

“When I was driving home that evening I kept thinking.. “Wow, I actually am talking to someone about it! [lauging]... I noticed I felt some kind of..liberation, I mean you know more about me than my wife does!”

(Maarten, 32 years)

Resisters 'storied selves'...

**are positioned as being a confessional self
(telling a secret story/talking taboo)**



Preliminary findings [Level 3]

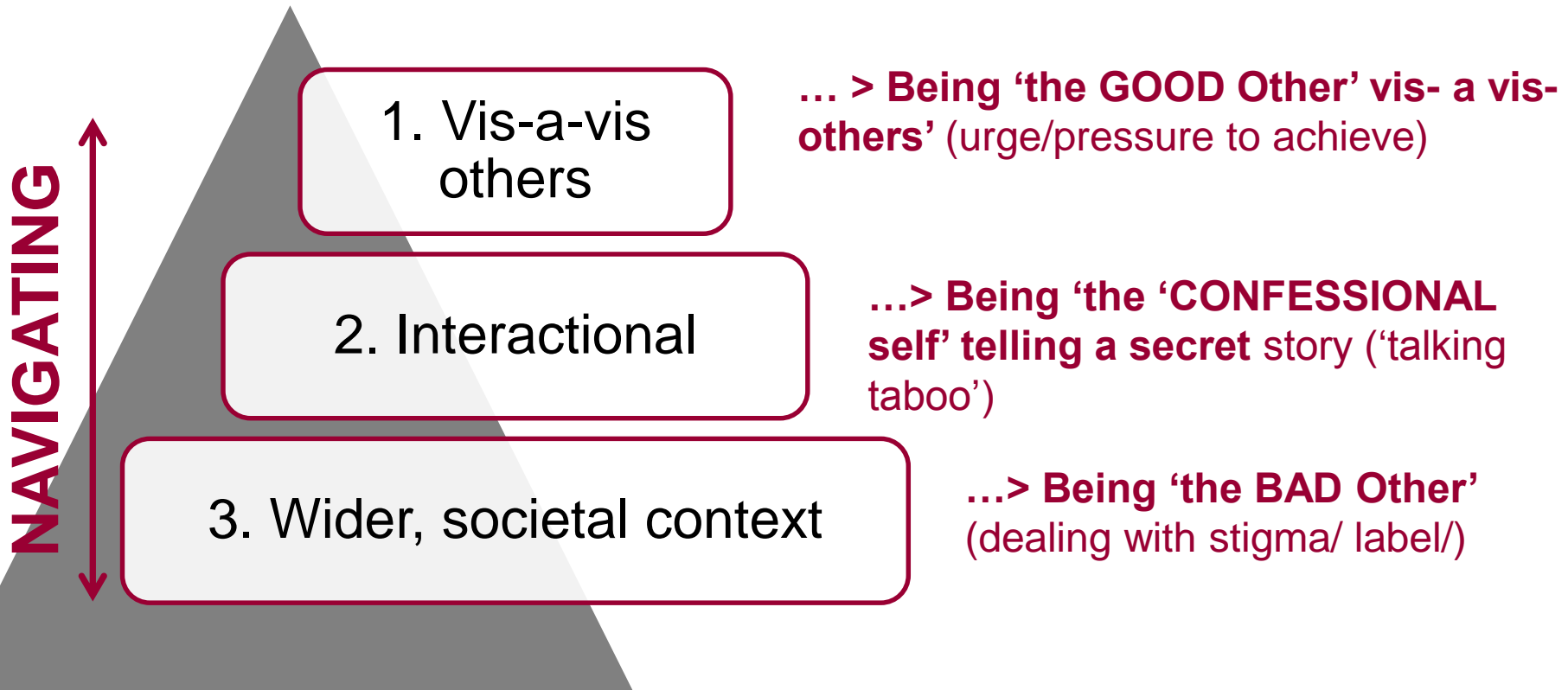
HOW DO RESISTERS POSITION THEMSELVES IN A WIDER, SOCIETAL CONTEXT ?

“I had 1 one good friend, and he still is one of my best friends.. Eehm, someone to have good conversations with, someone who understands me en made some effort. The rest was all prejudices...” (Maarten, 32 years)

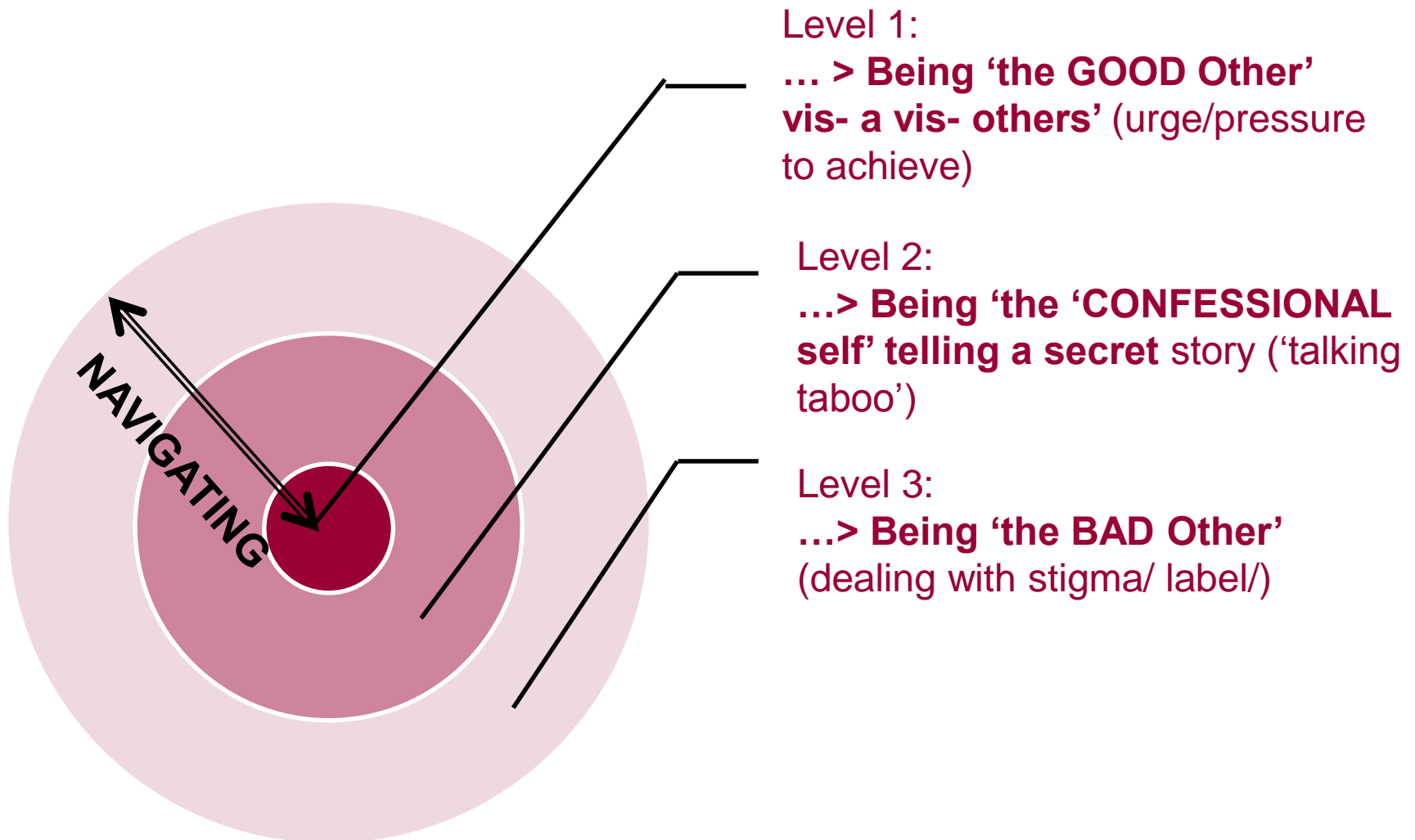
Resisters 'storied selves' ...
are positioned as being viewed
as 'the ('bad') other' (dealing with stigma)



Positioning levels: concluding remarks



(Also see Bamberg, 1997:337; 2004; 2012; Sools, 2010; Bahktin, 1981; 2004:694; Squire in Andrews, Squire & Tamboukou, 2009:43; Mishler, 2004; Salmon & Riessman in Andrews, Squire & Tamboukou 2013:197ev; Phoenix in Andrews et al., 2013:72ev; Riesmann, 2008).



...What does a Storyline Analysis bring in regarding narrative criminology?

- **It is a relative new way of in an indepth analysis** according to a flexible but at the same time structured way: what is this story about? Searching for consistencies but also inconsistencies (breach), looking at lifestories as a 'film' (pentad)
- It takes into account two more levels of analysis (interactional & societal) which **enriches the narrative data in a coherent way, based on positioning theory**
- **It provides insight in meaningmaking and opens up the opportunity to position the narrative self in coherent and meaningful way.** This can provide a basis for strengthening personal development (here resistance) and shape future actions...



**NARRATIVE RESEARCH
FUNCTIONS
AS FINDING STAGE AND
GIVING VOICE...**



What to do if you or your interviewssessions become a (start of a) meaningful part of a persons lifestory (researcher in a 'mother'confessor role)? Keep professional distance? Or...?

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	Agency	Structure
Unified	Narrative psychology <i>Focus on the creative and artful construction of a coherent and consistent self-narrative</i>	Structuralism <i>Focus on the reflection of a coherent and consistent pre-authored self-narrative</i>
Fragmented	Etnomethodology <i>Focus on constant and strategic shifts between different, sometimes competing, selfnarratives</i>	Postmodernism <i>Focus on the reflecting of a multitude of selfnarratives in a complex and chaotic order of discourse</i>

Figuur A: Kwadrant van theoretische analyse-ramwerken van levensverhalen ('self narratives') in narratief onderzoek (Sandberg, 2013:71).

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