Getting it right – the first time???
Trying to get it right

- Research design
- Sample
- Getting access
- In the field
  - What is data?
  - Structuring data collection
  - What is enough time?
  - Theorizing
- Writing
Research Design

Know thyself

- My approach to research: inductive, grounded theory
- Different questions require different approaches
  - Crying vs. crime lab interviews
Sample

- Theoretically driven sample (Barley’s dissertation)
- Sample of convenience (ASQ compassion organizing paper)

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
Getting access

If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again

- Persistence pays off
- Try multiple sites simultaneously
- Work every connection you’ve got
- Try different levels of the organization
- Get a foot in the door
What is data?

Everything is beautiful in its own way

- Everything!
  - Rejections
  - Frank Flynn’s restaurant project
  - My getting kicked out of firearms
- This means you must be alert or you will miss opportunities!
Structuring data collection

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

☐ Plan your interviews beforehand; think about what you are trying to do

☐ Have a list of questions you want to ask

Consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds

☐ Be attentive to what your informants want to say; go with the flow

☐ Have categories; skip around
Do I have enough data?

- **Enough**
  - Depends on the question

- **Ethnography**
  - 9 women can’t make a baby in one month
  - Duneier’s Sidewalk
Theorizing

You can’t see the forest for the trees

- Be wary of going native
- Your data is too technical
- You may overidentify with your informants

- Nothing new here
- Path through the forest includes the New York State Thruway, Rte 17, and Old Rte 17
- Broad themes are not enough!!!
Starting to write

Get over yourself!