Exercises

# Chapter 13: How many cases do you need?

## Exercise 1: Defend arguments and explain the value of data

1. Go to the links just before Section 13.4 in the book.
2. Assess whether Flyvbjerg or Ruddin has the better on this argument.
3. How would you explain the value of your data to a sceptical quantitative researcher?

## Exercise 2: Work with a single case

Assume that you are studying a single case. On what basis do you think you might generalize from your findings? Distinguish your possible empirical contribution from any potential development of concepts.

## Exercise 3: Create a typology of potential cases

Imagine that you have the resources to study four cases of the phenomenon in which you are interested. Following my discussion of Stake (Table 13.3), draw up a typology to indicate the universe of cases potentially available. This typology should include between six and twelve possible cases. Now explain why you propose to select your four cases in terms of the logic of purposive sampling.

## Exercise 4: Understand how theory can justify a small dataset

Using conversation analysis, Harvey Sacks has argued: ‘tap into whomsoever, wheresoever and we get much the same things’ (1984b: 22). Consider how far your own theoretical model might allow you to use Sacks’ argument to justify working with a very small dataset.