This is an excerpt from one of the interviews undertaken by Hannah Scaife (2016) for her Master’s degree in Psychology. This excerpt, and that of five other interviews, are used to highlight her use of Thematic Analysis as a tool for the analysis of qualitative data. Further details on her use of Thematic Analysis, and an exercise to allow you to explore its application, is given in Chapter 11 of the book by Opie and Brown (2019).

Note: where (.) is used this indicates a very short pause and (.*n*) indicates a pause of approximately *n* seconds.

**Excerpt of interview transcript: 2Q3DF**

I: With a focus on your internal sense of self, can you describe the process by which you built your own understanding of your gender and sexual identities, as you understand them now?

2Q3DF: So I’ve always felt like I’m a girl. There’s never been any ambiguity. I’ve always been a kind of girly girl, or what I guess society you know dictates a girl should be. I’ve always worn dresses, I’ve always wanted to wear dresses, play with dolls. Ever since I can remember I’ve wanted to wear my mum’s high heels, and put on a lipstick, erm, dye my hair different colours, and I guess I’m just happy being a woman, I know that I’m meant to be a woman and you know I don’t ever look and guys and feel jealous other than the fact that they can take ten minutes to get ready [laugh] and I take two hours. But there’s been absolutely no kind of confusion or anything. Definitely 100% sure that I should be a woman. Erm, and in respect to my sexuality I always feel like I’ve always been attracted to men, erm, right from the off, and I’ve always gone after a particular type of man, I’m not sure why that is. Erm but I guess, and more so as I’ve got older, I’ve felt like I’ve become more attracted to women. I’ve always appreciated, you know like pretty women, erm but I guess the older I’ve got the more I’ve felt like it’s kind socially acceptable to do that. But I don’t know if, you know, because we’re becoming more liberal as a population, the kind of literature that I read are like buzzfeed and, you know where everyone’s really liberated, you can kind of say and do as you want as there’s no judgement, erm, I also think that my friends A\*\*\* and H\*\*\*\*\* have had a good influence in terms of you know not being judgemental and you know encouraging me to kind of explore stuff that I wouldn’t necessarily have done or thought was appropriate before.

I: Ok, so, you said you’ve always been attracted to a particular type of man

2Q3DF: Yeah

I: what type of man is that?

2Q3DF: So, I guess manly, in the typical sense. So someone that’s strong, erm, in terms of like physical appearance, manly, I’m using a lot of stereotypes here [laugh] so broad, hairy, I guess the kind of alpha male type. And someone that would, can kind of protect me, even though I’m really independent I like someone that can kind of (.) take control and knows what he wants and can look after me, in a way, because I can be quite vulnerable.

I: So do you think more recently when you’ve been open to being physically attracted to women, do you look for similar qualities in women?

2Q3DF: Completely the opposite [laugh]. So now I’m kind of attracted to effeminate women, feminine women sorry. So I don’t, I definitely don’t get turned on by really kind of butch women, it’s the complete opposite. So, you know like curvy, beautiful (.) erm and I’m not sure why there’s such a (.) a difference between the two but yeah.

I: So would you say that the women that you find attractive look similar to what you find attractive in yourself, or how you would like to present?

2Q3DF: Yeah, 100%. Yeah.

I: So girly..?

2Q3DF: Girly, feminine, cute, I guess. Things I aspire to be.

I; Yeah?

2Q3DF: Yeah.

I: What do you think is the distinction then between how you feel about men and how you feel about women, sexually, relationship-wise?

2Q3DF: Erm, that’s a really hard question. I guess I, I’ve never wanted to be in a relationship with a woman, I just, I don’t feel that draw towards women in that particular way, it’s more a sexual thing. So I guess I don’t need women to look after me, I don’t need them to, you know, support me, in that sense. It’s purely sexual. Whereas with a man, I do (.) I am kind of drawn to that side of them and that, I think is why I would (.) want to be in a long term relationship with a man and get married to a man (.) erm, and the kind of (.) the sexual (.) stuff surrounding women is still relatively new as well so I don’t know if that might change as the years go on or if I’ll (.) you know stop fancying women all together and this is just about me exploring that at the minute, and just kind of finding out whether I do want to pursue it more or actually I am completely straight erm and just want a relationship with a man.

I: So what do you think, can you (.) can you reflect on the process by which you began to think that you could look at women sexually, if that’s not something that you’ve felt historically has been how you’ve

2Q3DF: To be honest I think at points throughout my life I’ve kind of always wondered what it would be like to have sex with a woman, erm, but (.) I don’t know my parents are quite traditional (.) I’m not sure, well, they love me unconditionally but (.) I think they would prefer that I was in a relationship with a man, so I’ve always kind of thought well (.) my parents I don’t know if my parents would be accepting so there’s no point even going there. Erm, but again as I’ve got older and you know my friends change and you know I start associating with different people who have different ideas about stuff, and that’s kind of become more (.) I’ve felt like I’ve accepted it a bit more. So I can allow myself to explore it a bit more. Erm, so yeah.

I: And it sounds like you feel certain that it won’t ever become more than just a sexual attraction to women.

2Q3DF: Yeah, yeah, right now, I just, I have absolutely no intention of having a relationship with a woman. And I just, I don’t know in my head it just doesn’t feel right (.) like having sex with them is one thing, but, to just be in a relationship and, I guess it would be a complete life transformation as well and I don’t know if that’s probably a bit daunting or because it’s so (.) different to what I’m used to, and what I built my whole belief system around, maybe that has something to do with it, but when I (.) look (.) to my future in like ten years’ time, I do want to be married and I do see that as being married to a man, not a woman.

I: Mm. So you talked about your parents. So at what point do you think that their influence became less of a priority in terms of your thoughts about your own relationships?

2Q3DF: Erm, I would think (.) I would say that up until maybe a couple of years ago, even throughout university, erm I didn’t sort of act on any urges I might have had toward women. I think it’s purely over the past couple of years like I’ve said because of the kind of friends that I surround myself with and (.) the stuff that I read, what I find interesting on Facebook for example. Yeah I think (.) yeah as I’ve g, as I’ve got towards my late 20s I’ve thought, ‘do you know what, it’s my life’, I can do what I want, you know I’m independent I live on my own I you know, have my own job I’m an adult, so I can make my own choices. And I kind of think as well, if (.) it’s just sexual with women that’s something that my parents aren’t going to know about, and what they don’t know about [laugh] can’t you know, hurt them. I mean (.2) if I were to (.) have a relationship with a woman I think my parents would, they’d be shocked, because obviously I’ve never kind of alluded to the fact that you know, I might feel that way towards women, but ultimately they love me and they would never, you know, disown me or, be nasty to me, but obviously my parents want grandkids and you know they (.) they want me to be happy though, so.

I: Do you think you would feel any differently about women if you didn’t feel that way about your parents’ expectations?

2Q3DF: Yeah maybe, I mean maybe if I’d have grown up in a household where my parents talked about (.)you know (.) not just ‘oh when you get older and you have a boyfriend’, cause that’s always been (.) you know the kind of done thing, maybe I’d be more open to having a relationship with a girl. But I still feel like, I don’t know, like there’s just something in myself that I wouldn’t feel quite right about doing that. Erm but I don’t know, maybe I just haven’t found the right person.

I: And do you feel certain that that person, whoever that turns out to be, is going to be masculine and male or do you feel like it could be different?

2Q3DF: If it was a man, yes, definitely. If it was a woman I feel like they would be feminine.

I: So there is, there is a chance that you could feel that way about a woman?

2Q3DF: I yeah, I definitely, yeah, there’s definitely a chance. You can’t rule anything out. Because ultimately if you, if you meet someone and you’re sexually attracted to them and you love everything about them then love is love. But I just (.) for whatever reason can’t see myself falling in love with a woman.

Opie, C. and Brown, D. (eds) (2019)*Getting Started in Your Educational Research: A Student’s Guide to Design, Data Production and Analysis.* London: Sage.

Scaife, H.Z. (2016). ‘A qualitative exploration of sexual and gender identity in non-heterosexual women, specifically focused on identity formation, fluidity and intersectionality’. MSc thesis, Manchester Metropolitan University.