



Contents

<i>Series editor's foreword</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
1 Introduction: biographical research	1
Biographical research: defining the field	1
The development of biographical research	3
Methodological issues	6
The researcher's role	13
Theoretical approaches	14
Biographical research	15
Recommended reading	17
2 Uses of biographical research	18
Uses of biographical research	18
Disciplines and contexts	22
Education	23
Oral history	24
Health and ageing	25
Feminist research	28
Narratives of the body and sexuality	29
Autobiography and biography	30

vi Biographical research

Conclusion	31
Recommended reading	31
3 The life history	33
The life history	33
Individual lives and social structures	34
Life history data and method	37
Deviance, career, becoming	40
Case studies	42
Types of interpretation	46
Conclusion	50
Recommended reading	51
4 Autobiography and biography	52
Autobiography and biography – definitions	52
Genre	56
Issues in autobiography and biography	60
Letters, diaries, memoirs and other personal ‘artefacts’	62
Case study	66
Fiction and non-fiction	69
Conclusion	71
Recommended reading	72
5 Auto/biography and sociology	73
Auto/biography – definitions and relations	73
Individual experiences and auto/biographical writing	75
Feminism and auto/biography	77
Intertextuality – written and oral texts	78
Hermeneutics, phenomenology and narrative texts	80
Time perspectives – Mead, Schutz and Ricoeur	82
The researcher as an auto/biographer	84
The researcher and the researched subject	87
Individual lives and social lives	88
Case study	88
Conclusion	91
Recommended reading	92
6 Oral history	93
Oral history – definitions	93
Uses and types of oral history	95
Origins	97
Development and purpose	99
Ethics	104
Evidence, truth and the researcher	104

Political standpoint	107
Case study	110
Conclusion	113
Recommended reading	113
7 The narrative analysis of lives	115
Narrative analysis – definitions	115
Narrative analysis	117
Time and narrative	123
Myth and narrative	124
Case study	128
Other ‘models’ of life study	130
Conclusion	132
Recommended reading	133
8 Memory and autobiography	134
Types of memory	134
The social transmission of memories	140
Case study	142
Family and group memories	144
Public and private memories	145
Methodological issues: recollection and selectivity	147
Conclusion	148
Recommended reading	149
9 Ethnography and biographical research	151
Fieldwork, ethnography and participant observation – definition and practice	152
Research roles	152
Methodological issues	153
Ethnography and key informants	154
Reflexivity and the researcher’s life experience of ethnography	157
Ethnographic texts	160
Case study	162
Oral traditions and biography	164
Conclusion	165
Recommended reading	166
10 Conclusion	167
Disciplines	169
The biographical turn	169
Identity	170
Time	171
Memory	172

Researcher's self	172
Methodology	173
New technology	173
Conclusion	174
Recommended reading	175
<i>Glossary</i>	176
<i>References</i>	178
<i>Index</i>	200