What is qualitative interviewing? At the most basic level, interviews are conversations (Kvale, 1996). Kvale defines qualitative research interviews as "attempts to understand the world from the subjects' point of view, to unfold the meaning of peoples' experiences, to uncover their lived world prior to scientific explanations." Interviewing experiences can be intense interpersonal experiences. Just as participants may experience psychological stress from disclosing more than intended or being reminded of painful experiences, interviewers may be overwhelmed by the sensitive nature of what is seen or heard, especially in home- or field-based interviews. Some form of debriefing after the interview may be necessary. The purpose of the qualitative research interview treated in the book is to obtain descriptions with respect to interpretations of the meaning of what is described. The interviewer does not use ready-made categories but is open to new and unexpected phenomena. Descriptions of specific situations and action sequences are elicited, not general opinions. During an interview an interviewee might gain new insights and change his or her descriptions and meanings. Different interviewers can also produce different statements on the same themes. III Postmodern Thought, Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, and The book describes in-depth qualitative interviewing from the very beginning to last step, from its underlying philosophy and assumptions to project design, analysis and write up. In responsive interviewing, the stages of research-design, data gathering, and analysis are intimately linked. Researchers perform analysis throughout their projects, not just at the end, so that as they learn more, they can modify both the research problem they are exploring and the questions they ask. The book assumes no prior knowledge or experience, and the authors' tone is conversational, revealing that int...