My research focuses upon teenagers in Sweden and the U.S. from marginalized urban communities. Like Cole Sear from the feature film The Sixth Sense, I feel that I am describing something that others cannot see: "I see teenagers from marginalized backgrounds...walking around as complex human beings. They talk to me; they tell me things!" However, mainstream media discourses depict these complex, vibrant teens as if they are socially dead. Together with a team of researchers, I am using MAXQDA to facilitate a Critical Discourse Analysis of American and Swedish newspapers.

Scholarly conceptualizations of "social death" are listed below; MAXQDA helps us to literally read between the lines of newspaper articles for words, rhetoric, quotes, etc., conveying this concept. This poster portrays our MAXQDA driven review of a corpus of 220 articles (in The Philadelphia Inquirer from 1998 to 2005) about a marginalized Black American community called Strawberry Mansion:

Similar to King (1967), Arendt (1951), and Butler (2014) quoted directly above, Orlando Patterson depicts social death as a state of social negation, depersonalization, and nonbeing (1982). Likewise, Lisa Marie Cacho describes those in the predicament of social death as "persons ineligible for Personhood" (2012).

I would like to thank the research team members: Peter Bagin, Theresa McKinney, Joseph Waife, and Richard Öhman. This poster, designed by L. Janelle Dance, also includes contributions by Theresa McKinney. The title "Difference and Deviance and Threat, Oh My!" is a play on the phrase "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!" and inspired by the work of T. van Dijk (2002). The discourse analysis categories are adapted from G. Muchoř (2008).

-L.J. Dance