Mixing methods to explore professional identities in the age of data

Translators are a group of professionals who experience significant insecurity in their working lives. Machine translation is changing working practices and definitions of quality, and this largely freelance cohort has to deal with the precarity of self-employment. In my doctoral thesis I used a mixed methods to analyse how their identities were constructed. My methods involved both participant observation and semi-structured interviews, and quantitative social network analysis (SNA) using Twitter data. This paper I drew conclusions by combining these two methods. In particular, I discuss epistemology and how possible clashes of qualitative and quantitative methods can in fact lead to a rich analysis. As a result of mixing methods in this way, I was able to engage with different aspects of identities in translation.