

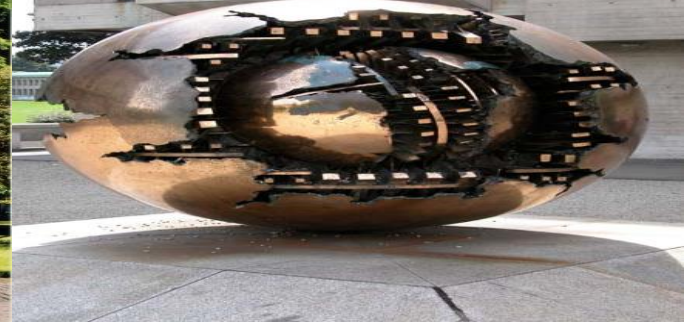
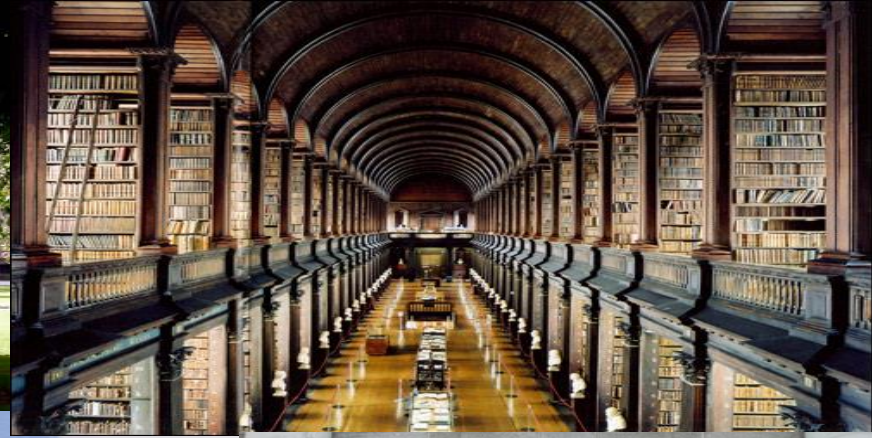


**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Co-production in policy, practice research and  
education: ripples or ravines

**Professor Agnes Higgins**  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2023





# Co-production in practice and research: ripples or ravines

01

Co-production  
Origins

02

Values and  
aspirations

03

Current state  
Outside/within MH  
system  
'Creating ripples ??'

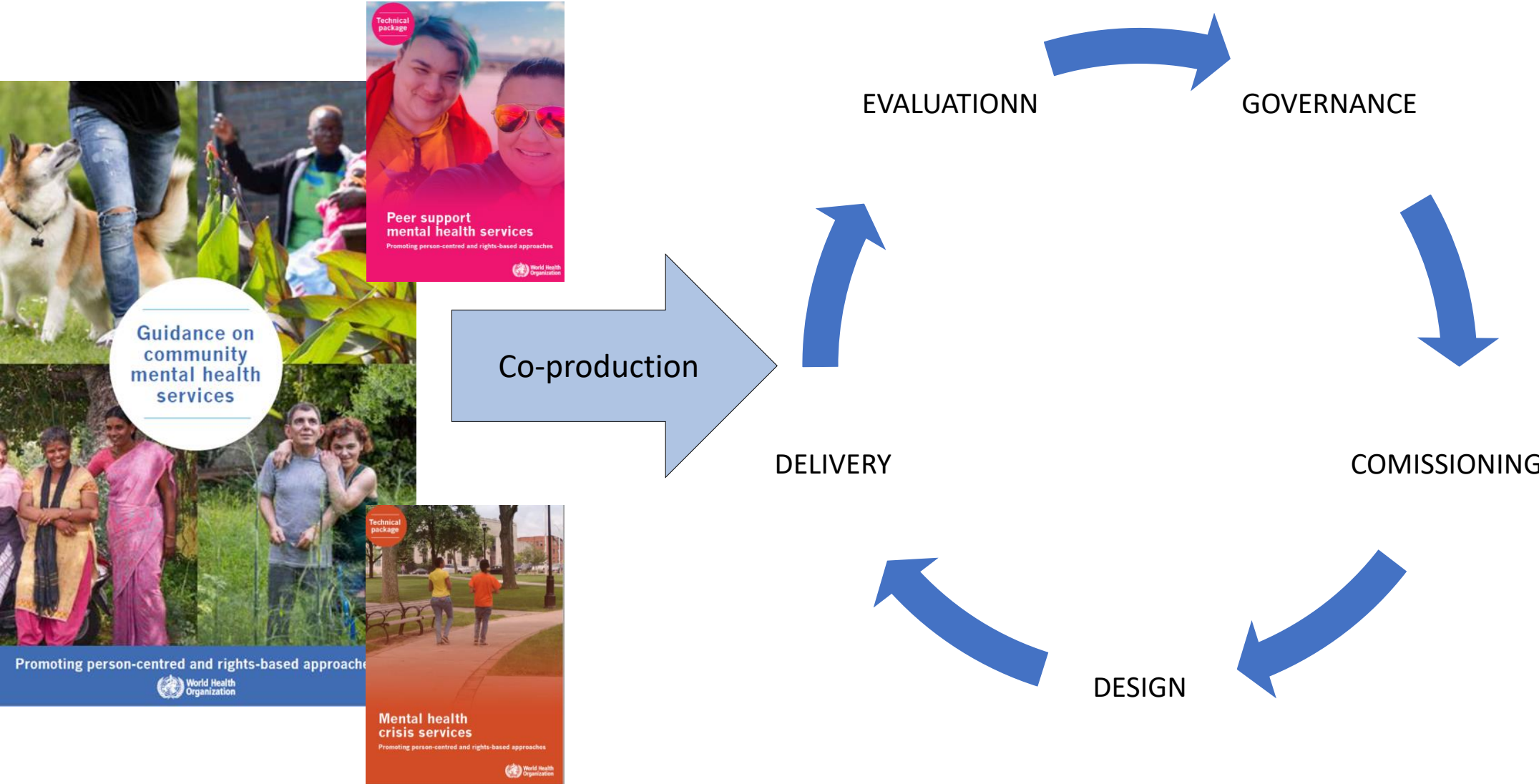


04

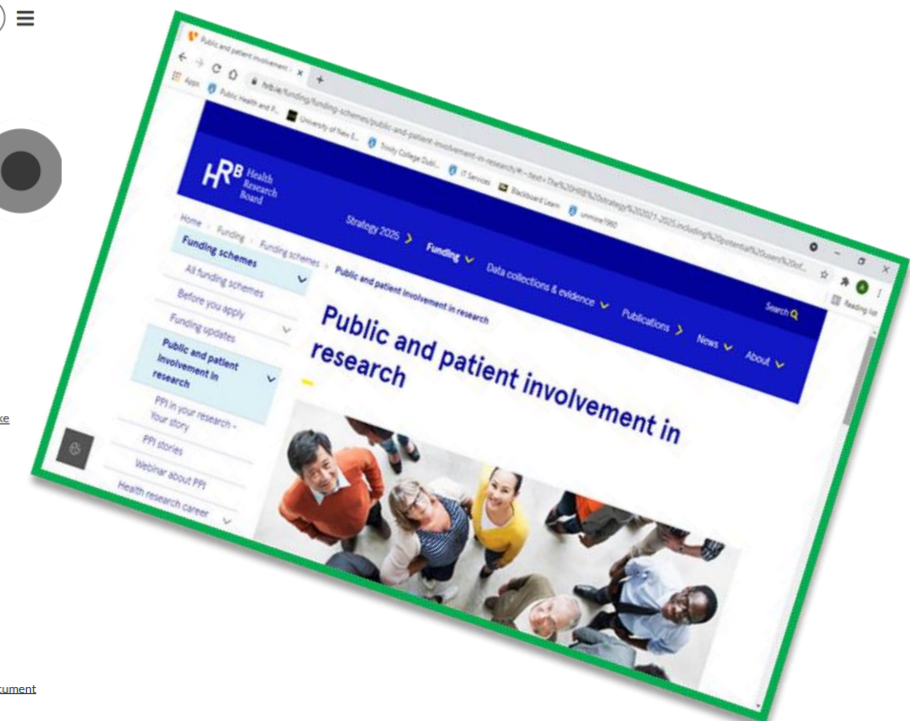
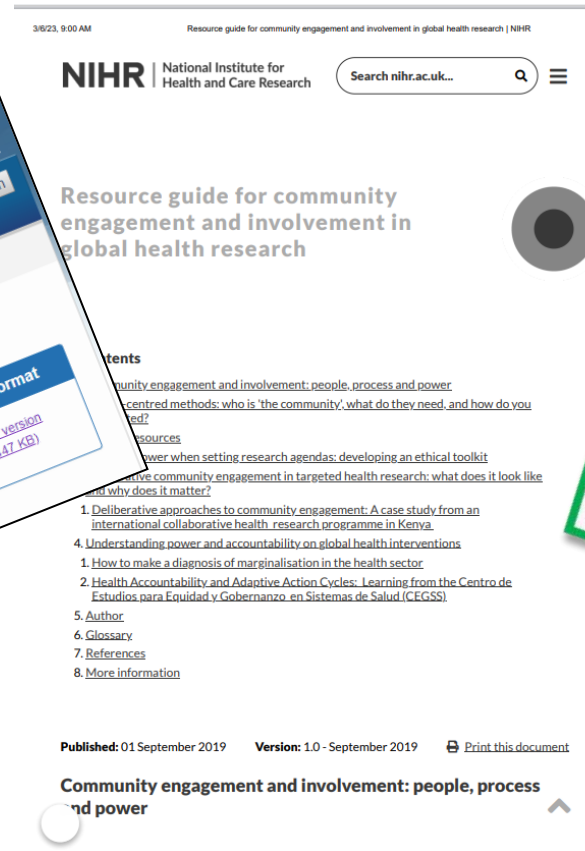
Reflection's of  
future  
'Creating a  
ravine'



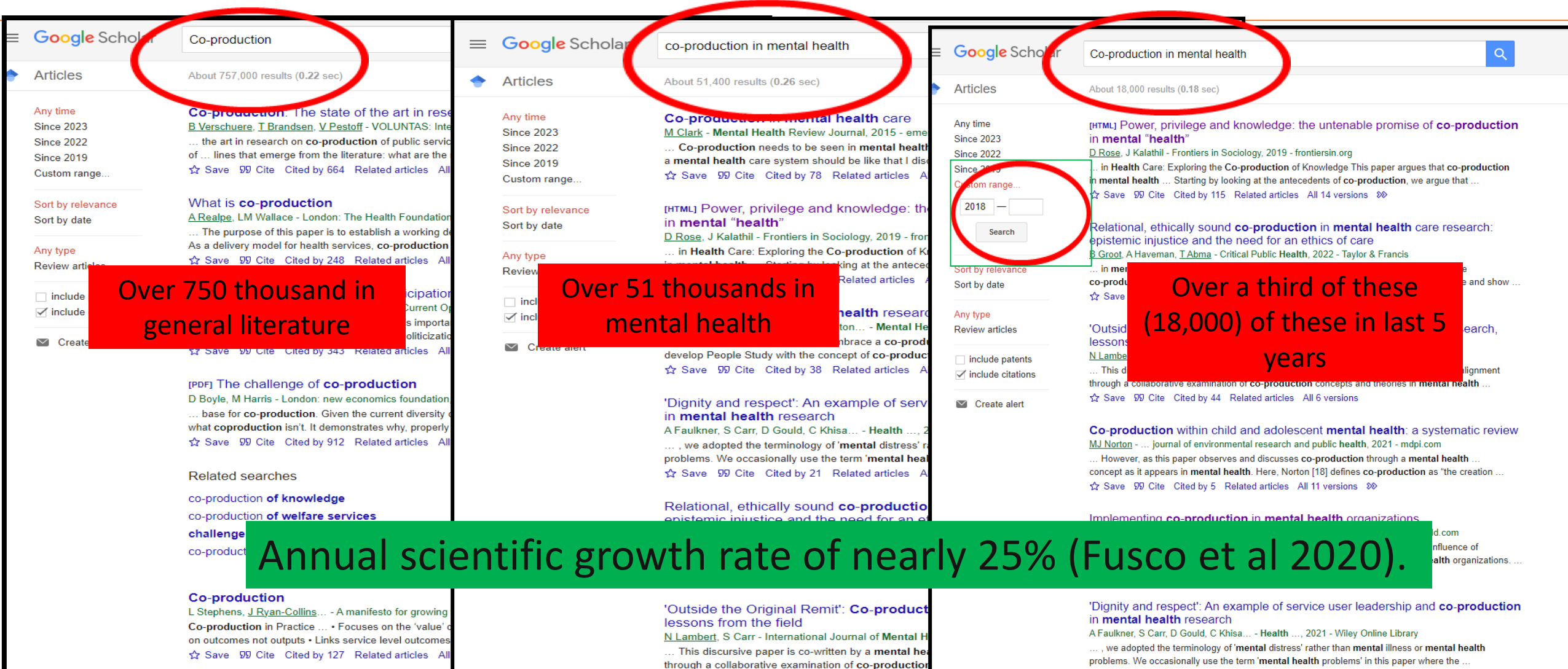
# Co-production: latest trend in Participatory Zeitgeist



# Co-production: research



# Drive reflected in publication



Google Scholar search results for "Co-production" (About 757,000 results (0.22 sec)).

Google Scholar search results for "co-production in mental health" (About 51,400 results (0.26 sec)).

Google Scholar search results for "Co-production in mental health" (About 18,000 results (0.18 sec)).

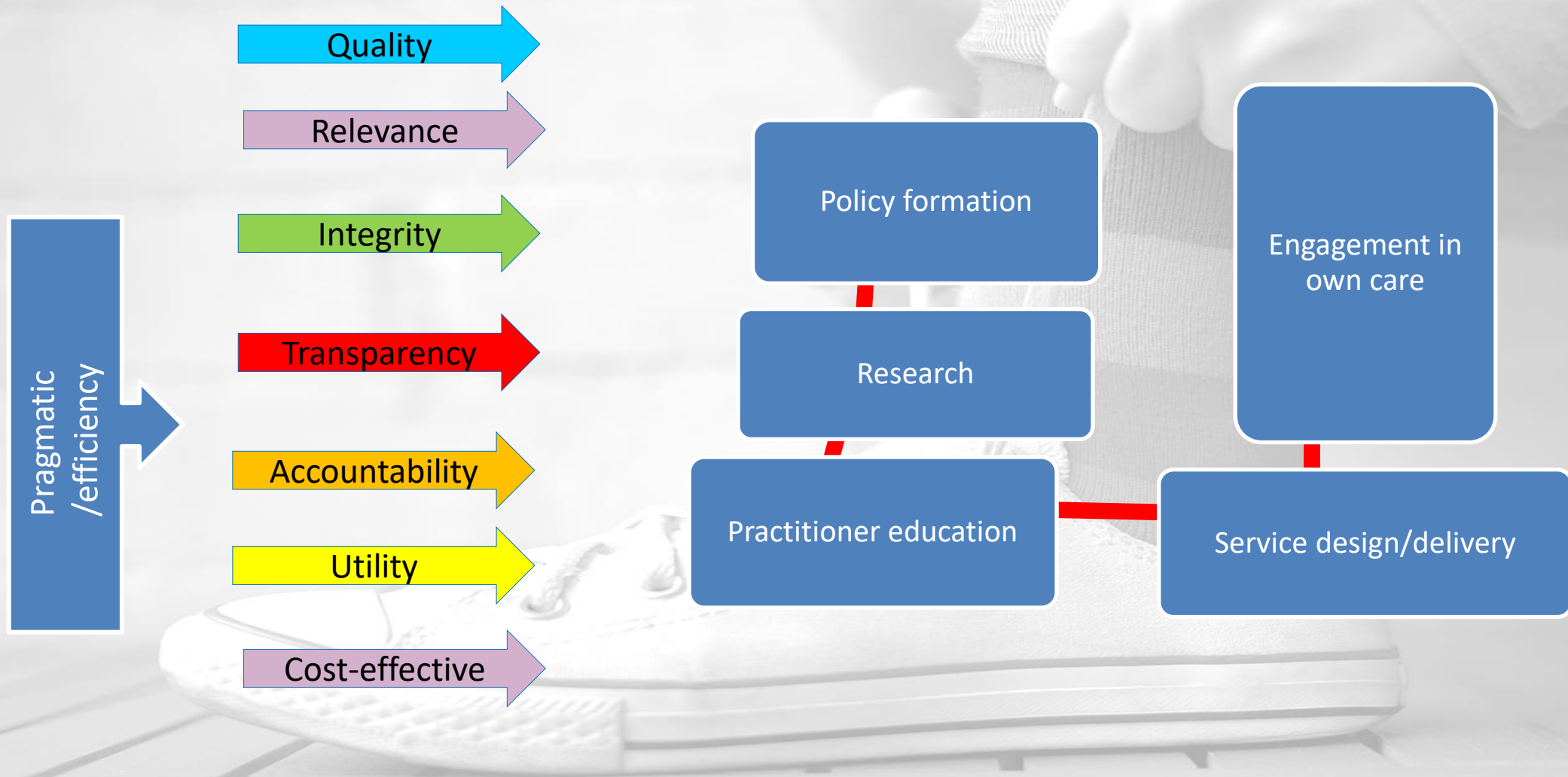
Over 750 thousand in general literature

Over 51 thousands in mental health

Over a third of these (18,000) of these in last 5 years

Annual scientific growth rate of nearly 25% (Fusco et al 2020).

*Efficiency/pragmatic: The person who wears the shoes knows where they pinch*



# Plethora of definitions

‘Co-production refers to **collaborative** and egalitarian relationships in which users are involved in **co-designing**, co-delivering, co-managing, and co-evaluating public services (Bovaird, 2007)

Co-production means **delivering services in an equal and reciprocal relationship** between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours’ (Boyle and Harris 2009 p. 11)

“Coproduction is [...] a way of working whereby [...] people who use services, significant others, family carers and service providers **work together to create** a [...] service which works for them all” (Skills for Health, 2013, p. 1).

‘Co-production recognises that **people who use social care services (and their families) have knowledge** and experience that can be used to help make services better, not only for themselves but for other people who need social care  
([www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/Browse/ Informationandadvice/CareandSupportJargonBuster/#Co-production](http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/Browse/Informationandadvice/CareandSupportJargonBuster/#Co-production))

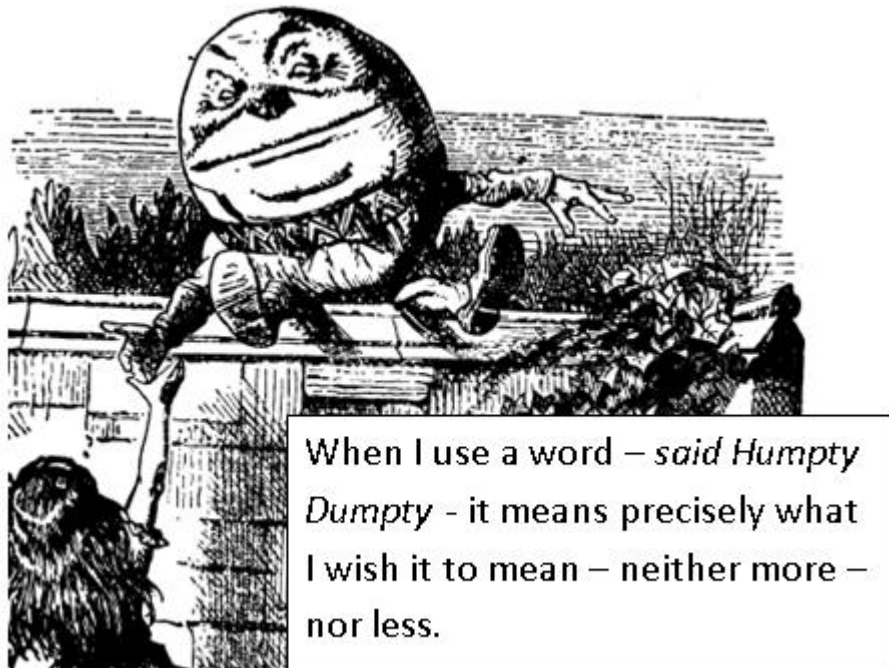
‘Coproduction is defined as a **collaborative** relationship within either clinical or scientific fields, between two persons with and without experiential expertise that both aim at levelling or, at least, **critically addressing power differentials** (Rose 2000)

A potentially **transformative way of thinking** about power, resources, partnerships, risks and outcomes, not an off-the-shelf model of service provision or a single magic solution’ (Needham and Carr 2009:p1)



# Words mean what we want them to mean

## Used interchangeably



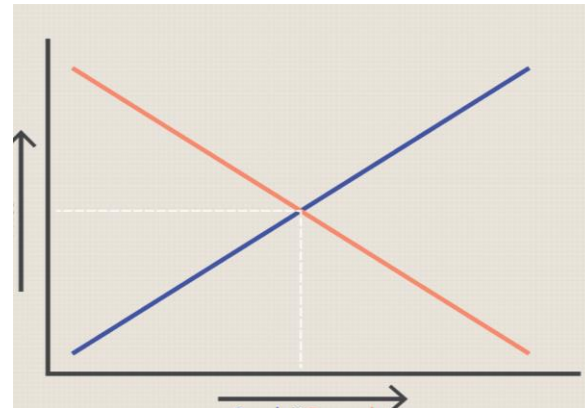
When I use a word – *said Humpty Dumpty* – it means precisely what I wish it to mean – neither more – nor less.

- Consulting
- Involvement
- Partnership
- Engagement
- Co-design
- Patient and Public involvement (PPI)

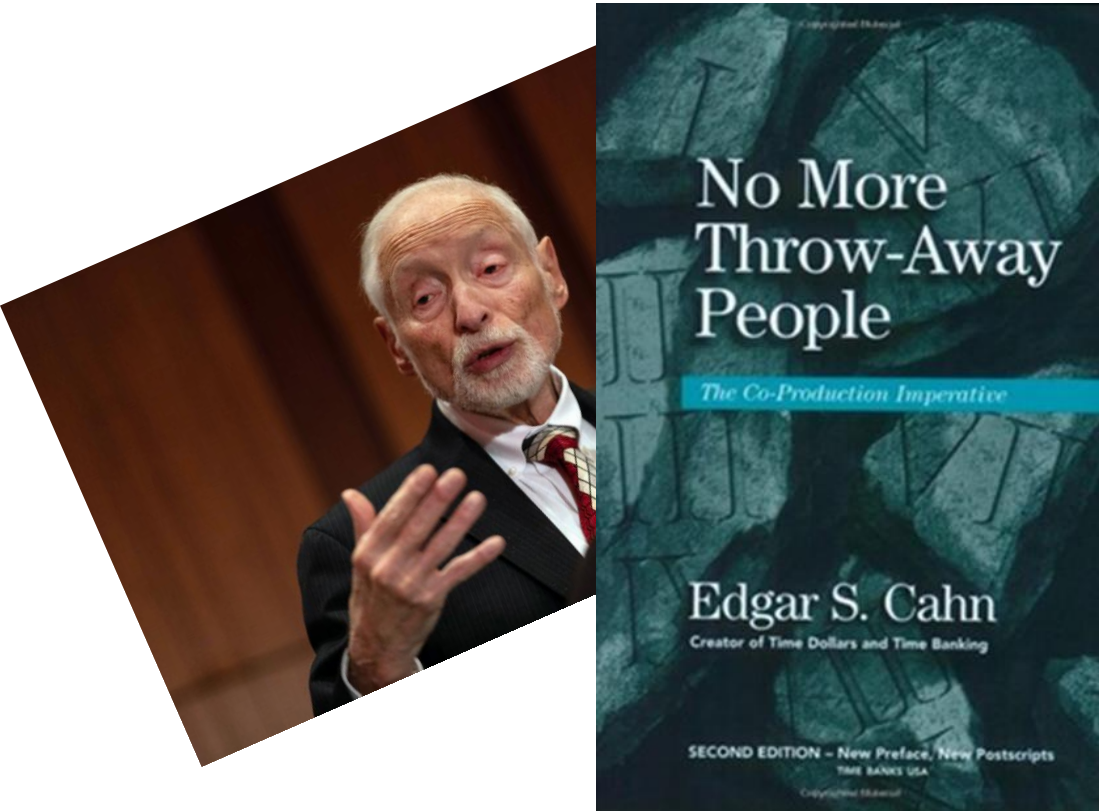
# Return to the roots: First coined



- Professor Elinor Ostrom
- Professor of Political Science



# Made popular



- Criticised service for
  - their failure to impact the lives of people
  - created a dependency that convinces people they had nothing worthwhile to offer
  - under mining any system of local support
- ‘Fight against being declared useless’ (Cahn, E 2008, p5)
- Born out of his involvement with **civil rights movement**, which was the prism which supplied ‘**the lens of social justice**’
- ‘Hell-raising is a critical part of co-production’ (Cahn, E 2004: P4)



# Co-production: structural transformation and a new social contract

Type of government	Citizen role	Citizens provide ...	Government provides ...
Old public administration	Subject	Elections and tax resources	Protection of the rights of citizens
New public management	Client	Payments for (collective) services	Value for money
New public governance	Coproducer	Collaborative engagement	Collaborative action

In essence it is a move from the centralised political hierarchical order of state to a more horizontal networking relationship between citizens, families and communities.

SM  
6

## Coproduction as a structural transformation of the public sector

Albert Meijer

Utrecht University School of Governance, Utrecht University,  
Utrecht, The Netherlands

6

vised 4 January 2016  
sd 11 April 2016  
ped 15 May 2016

### Abstract

**Purpose** – Coproduction fundamentally changes the roles of citizens and governments. The purpose of this paper is to enhance the theoretical understanding of the transformative changes in the structural order of the public domain that result from the coproduction of public services.

**Design/methodology/approach** – This paper builds upon both the literature on coproduction of public services, new public governance and on social contracts between citizens and the state to identify the nature, drivers and implications of the transformation. The argument is illustrated with examples from crime control and healthcare.

**Findings** – The analysis identified an institutional misfit and highlights four key issues that are key to the understanding of the structural transformation of public services: compensation for time and knowledge resources, responses to new forms of (in)equality, risk of conflicts between citizens and re-organizing accountability.

**Research limitations/implications** – The analysis highlights the need for further research into the implications of coproduction for government legitimacy, transfer of power, financial implications, representativeness and consequences for non-coproducing citizens.

**Originality/value** – This paper links instrumental debates about the coproduction of public services to fundamental debates about the relations between government and citizens and identifies substantial issues that are raised by this structural transformation in the public domain and that require new responses.

**Keywords** Coproduction, New public governance, Structural transformation

**Paper type** Conceptual paper

### 1. Introduction

The literature on coproduction in the public sector is rapidly expanding and empirical research is being conducted in a broad variety of domains (Bovaird, 2007; Alford, 2009; Pestoff *et al.*, 2013; most recently, Williams *et al.*, 2016). While the theoretical notion of coproduction dates from the 1970s, the idea currently catches momentum and is applied to describe and analyze a wide variety of practices of citizen and stakeholder engagement ranging from housing (Brandsen and Helderman, 2012) to public service delivery (Bovaird, 2007), childcare services (Pestoff, 2006), education (Thomsen and Jakobsen, 2015) and policing (Meijer, 2014). The key point in all these analyses is that traditional distinctions between users/consumers and producers are fading and they are being replaced by cooperative relations.

In spite of the growing attention for coproduction, our understanding of the fundamental nature of coproduction is still limited. Coproduction brings a fundamental re-organization of relations between citizens and government (Bovaird, 2007; Alford, 2009; Pestoff *et al.*, 2013; Radnor *et al.*, 2014) and this transformation challenges important values such as equality, accountability, transparency and proportionality. Many analyses of coproduction, however, are highly interesting but of a rather instrumental nature and fail to tackle the underlying issue of re-arranging the roles of



ational Journal of Public  
Management  
9 No. 6, 2016  
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nal Group Publishing Limited  
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0.1100/jppm.01.2016.0101

# Co-production: Agree and Disagree

How to get the "p's" right  
So that it's not all about the

- Policies
- Procedures
- Pathways
- Paperwork
- Protocols
- Politics

When it should be about the  
People

Yvonne Newbold, MBE  
Founder of Newbold Hope



<https://www.newboldhope.org/>

# Core principles of co-production: radically different epistemology



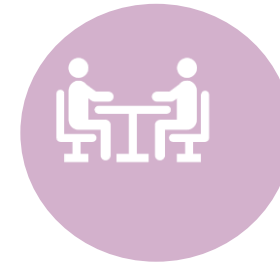
**Political agenda  
Democratisation**



**Dissolving/  
blurring  
boundaries**



**Working  
together in  
equal and  
reciprocal  
relationships**



**Respecting and  
valuing  
different  
knowledge  
sources and  
types of  
knowledge**



**Transforming  
way we think  
about power**





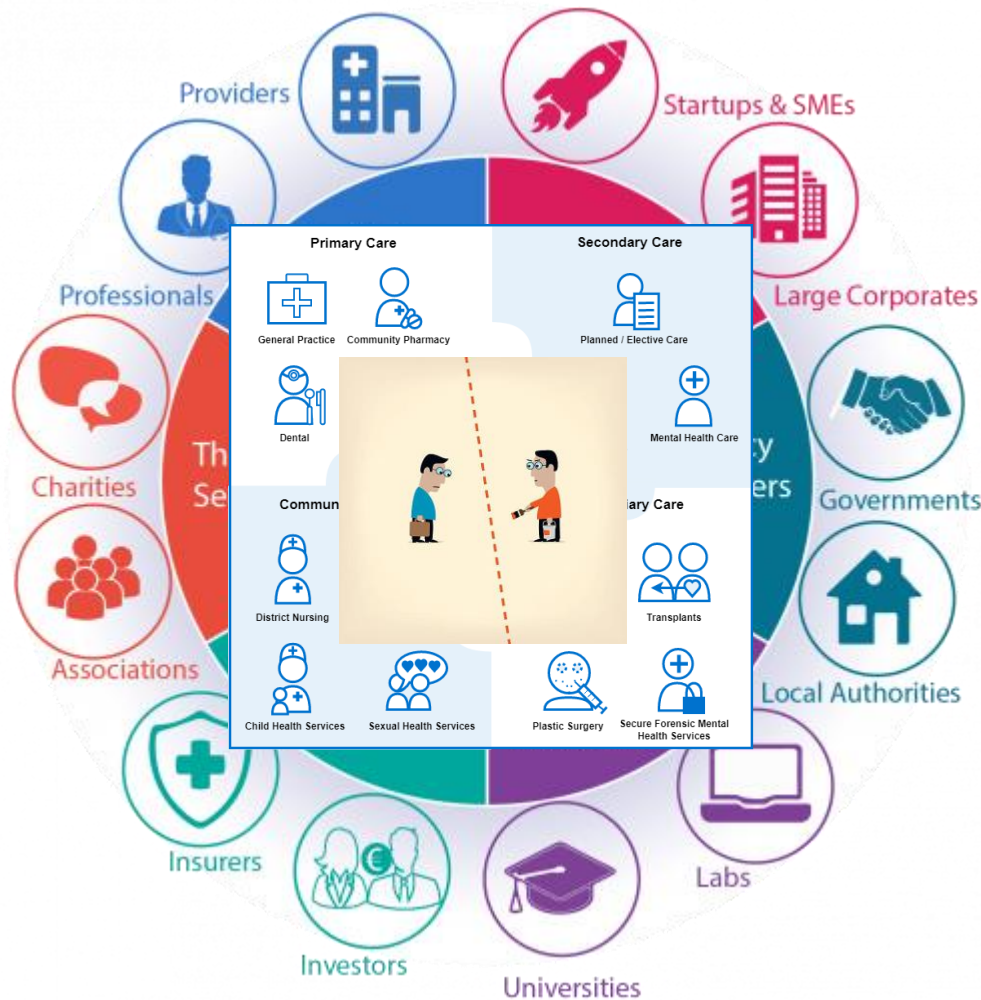
Democratic right of citizen to be involved (Citizen engagement)

Nothing about us without us

Right to have a say in matters that affect or impacts me

Right to influence what is paid for by public money

# Dissolving or blurring of boundaries/categories



- Blurring conceptual distinction between participant categories (provider and recipient)
- Blurring structural/organisational distinction between inside and outside systems (boundaries MHS, community)
- Blurring distinctions in terms of location of mental health care

*Creating new spaces, places sites for and modes of interaction between individuals (citizens), groups and communities*



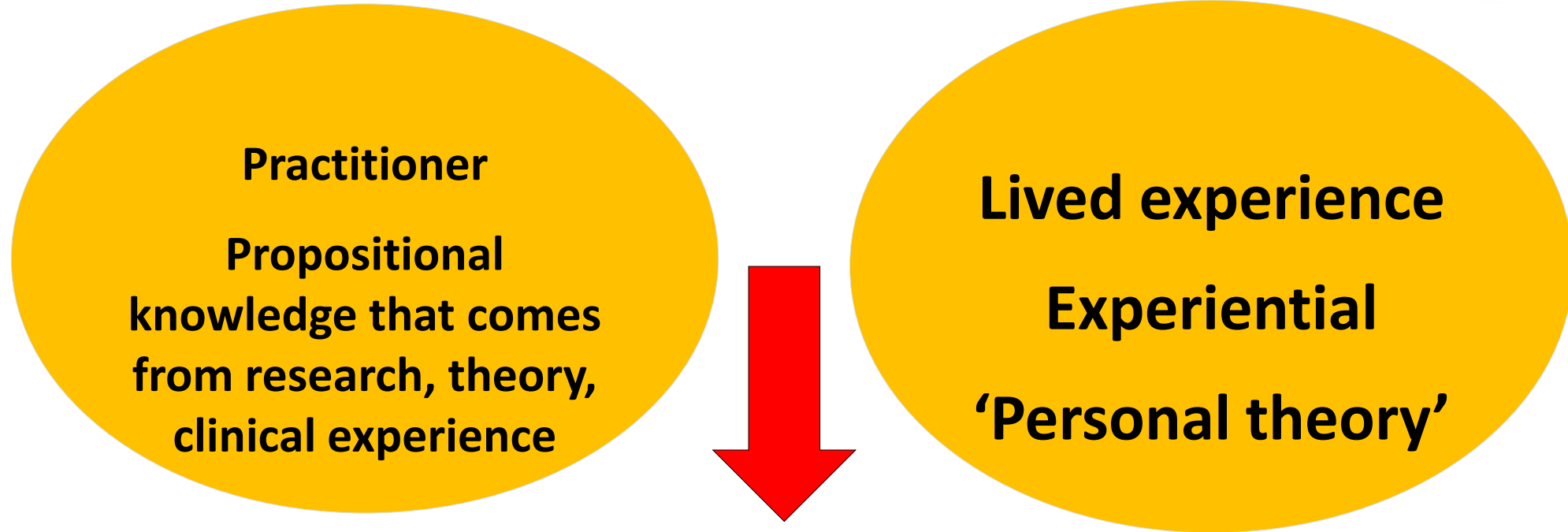
# Working together in equal and reciprocal relationships



Blurring relational boundaries (engagement)

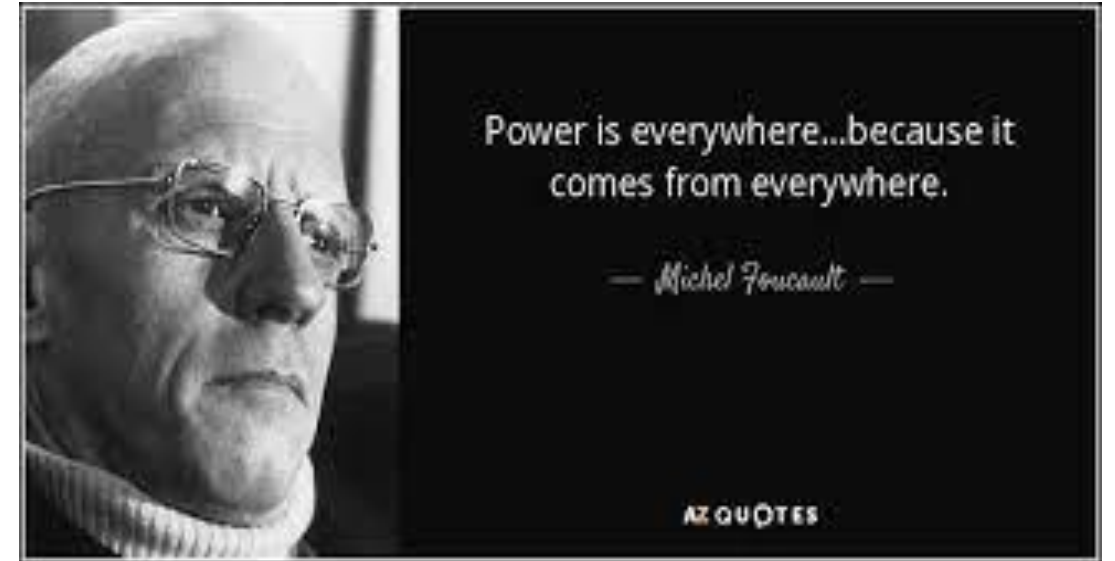
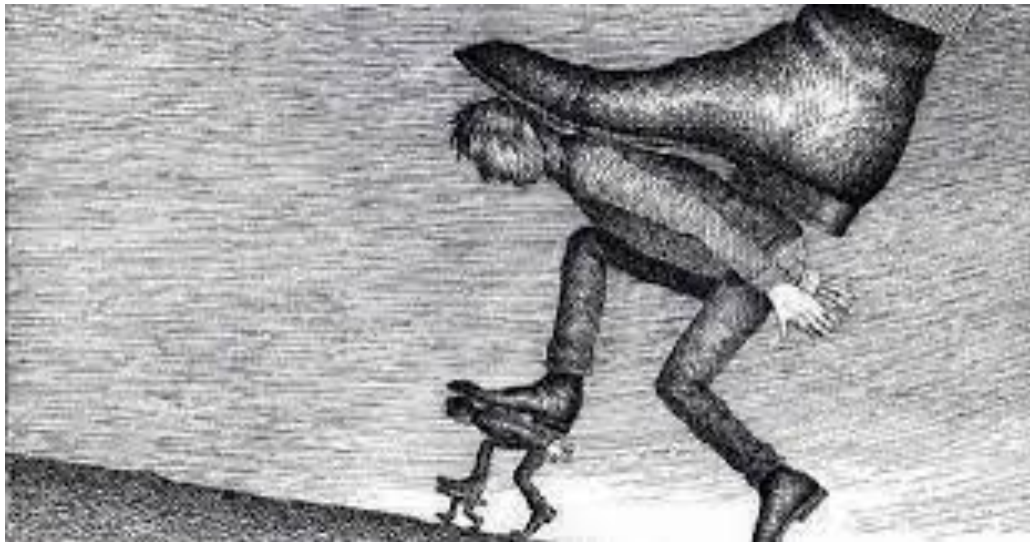


# Valuing different sources and types of knowledge: Disrupting knowledge boundaries



Process of collaborative sense making

# Transformative way of thinking about power



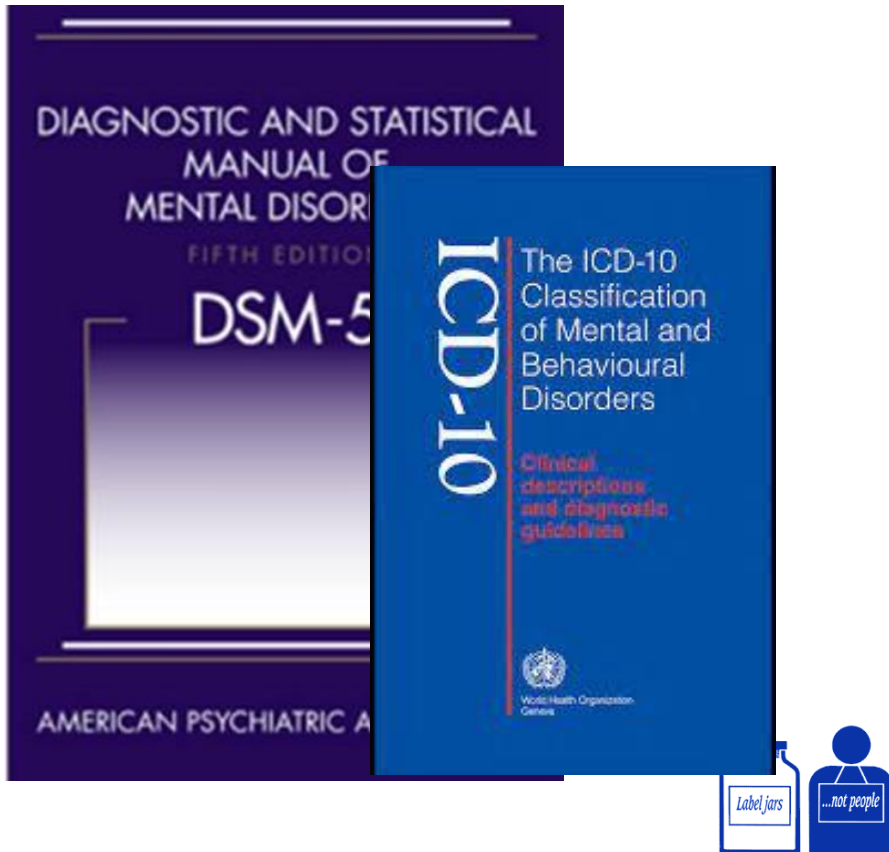
Power is everywhere, diffused and embodied in discourse, knowledge and regimes of truth

(Foucault M, 1966 The Archaeology of Knowledge Routledge)

# Transformative way of thinking about power: Question -how does power operate with the system ?



## Ideological power



## Power -creation of identities

“The single most damaging effect of psychiatric diagnosis is loss of meaning. By divesting people’s experiences of their personal, social, and cultural significance, diagnosis turns **“people with problems”** into **“patients with illnesses.”** [As a consequence] “stories of trauma, abuse, discrimination, and deprivation are sealed off behind a label as the individual is launched on what is often a lifelong journey of disability, exclusion, and despair”.

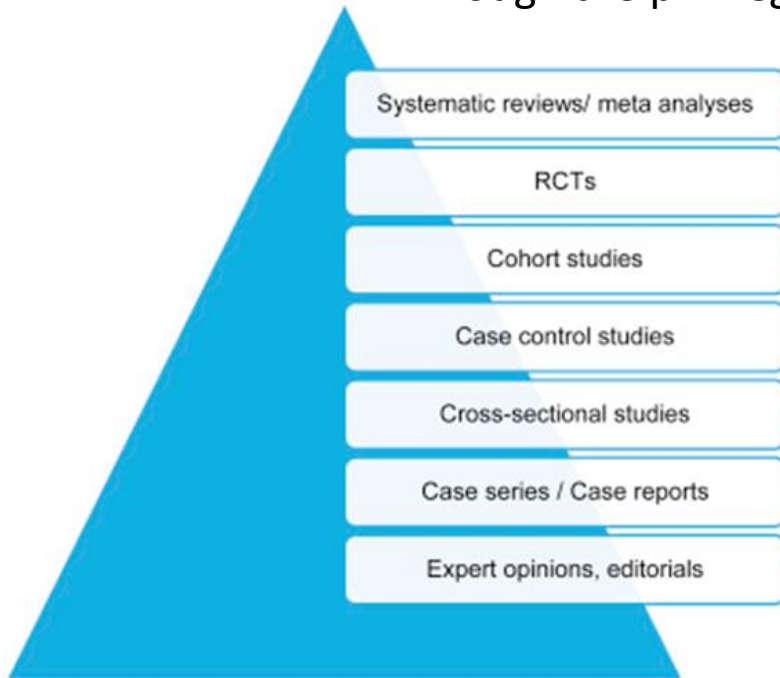
Johnstone et al (2018: 31)

‘Passive docile body in need of care’ by expert mental health practitioners (Foucault M, 1966 The Archaeology of Knowledge Routledge)

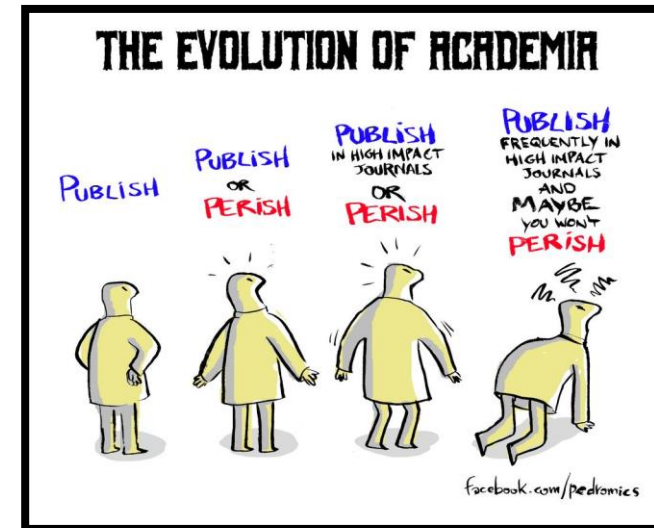
# Transformative way of thinking about power: Question -how does power operate with the system ?



Through the privileging of ways we produce and disseminate knowledge



Elite spaces of academy



<https://walkingscienceshoes.wordpress.com/2020/02/05/publish-or-perish-is-it-that-simple/>

Traditional hierarchies of knowledge

Sites of knowledge production

Sites of dissemination

# Transformative way of thinking about power: Question -how does power operate with the system



## Relational boundary power

### Person in crisis

Ill person

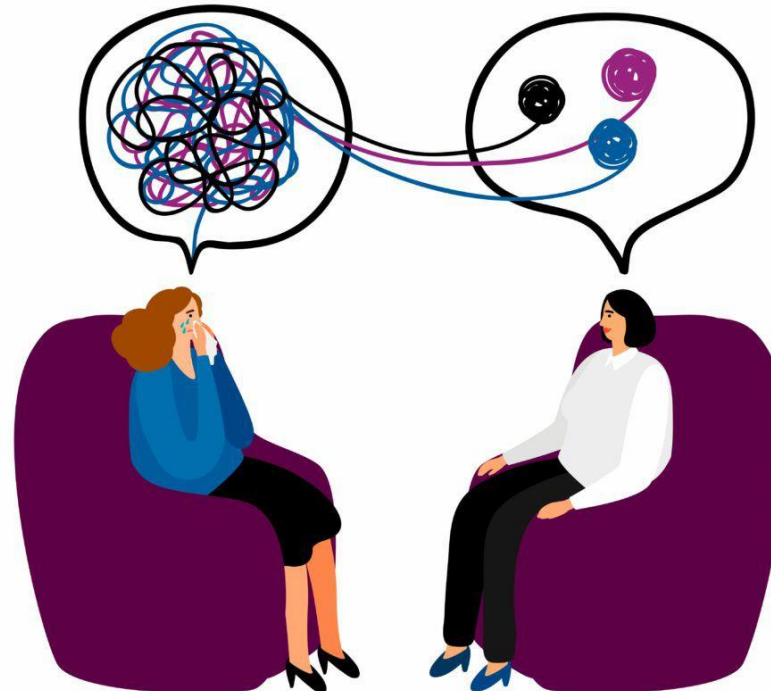
Unstable

Vulnerable user

Mad

Poor decision maker

Self disclosure



### Practitioner

Healthy

Stable

Resilient

Competent

Know what is best

‘Professional distance/  
impersonal/ do not speak or  
reveal own crisis  
experiences’

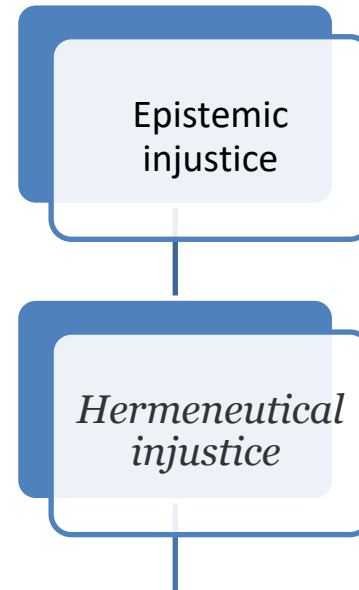
<https://www.therapyroute.com/article/the-therapeutic-relationship-and-the-process-of-change-an-integrationist-perspective-by-p-renn>

**ABSTRACT:** To date, there is little research on personal crisis experiences of mental health professionals. The aim of this study was to explore some of the reasons for why self-disclosure is so difficult and how these difficulties may prevent productive forms of coproduction. These questions are addressed both from a psychiatrist's autoethnographic account and from the perspective of a peer worker who works in various coproductive relationships. It is shown that mental health professionals often resort to an "I-as-we", speaking of themselves as a collective and thereby reifying the boundaries between 'vulnerable users' and 'invulnerable professionals'. Ethnographic examples are given, of how these boundaries are produced by a continuous, often ineluctable, and powerful category work. It is discussed how the dichotomous logic of these boundaries can cause people on both sides to feel reduced to a representation of a certain species, which can take on an existential dimension. Ways out are identified for mental health professionals to self-reflexively engage with their own crisis experience in coproductive and other relationships.

**KEY WORDS:** collaboration, participation, research, stigma, user-led.

**'Mental health professionals' own crisis experiences can provide significant added value for clinical and scientific work. However, in many of these co-productive relationships, these experiences are only represented by the participating users. Professionals generally hold back with a self-reflexive or open engagement with their own crisis experiences (Rose 2009). This imbalance raises a number of questions for the field of mental health coproduction: how can a relationship on equal footing develop if one of the participating groups is unwilling to open up? How are users supposed to succeed in coping with their own stigma if we as mental health professionals are unable to do so ourselves? And what ways are available to deal with issues of power and control, which are so important in collaborative relationships, if one side opens up, but the other does not?' (von Peter & Schulz 2018)**

# Transformative way of thinking about power: Question –how does this impact on the person

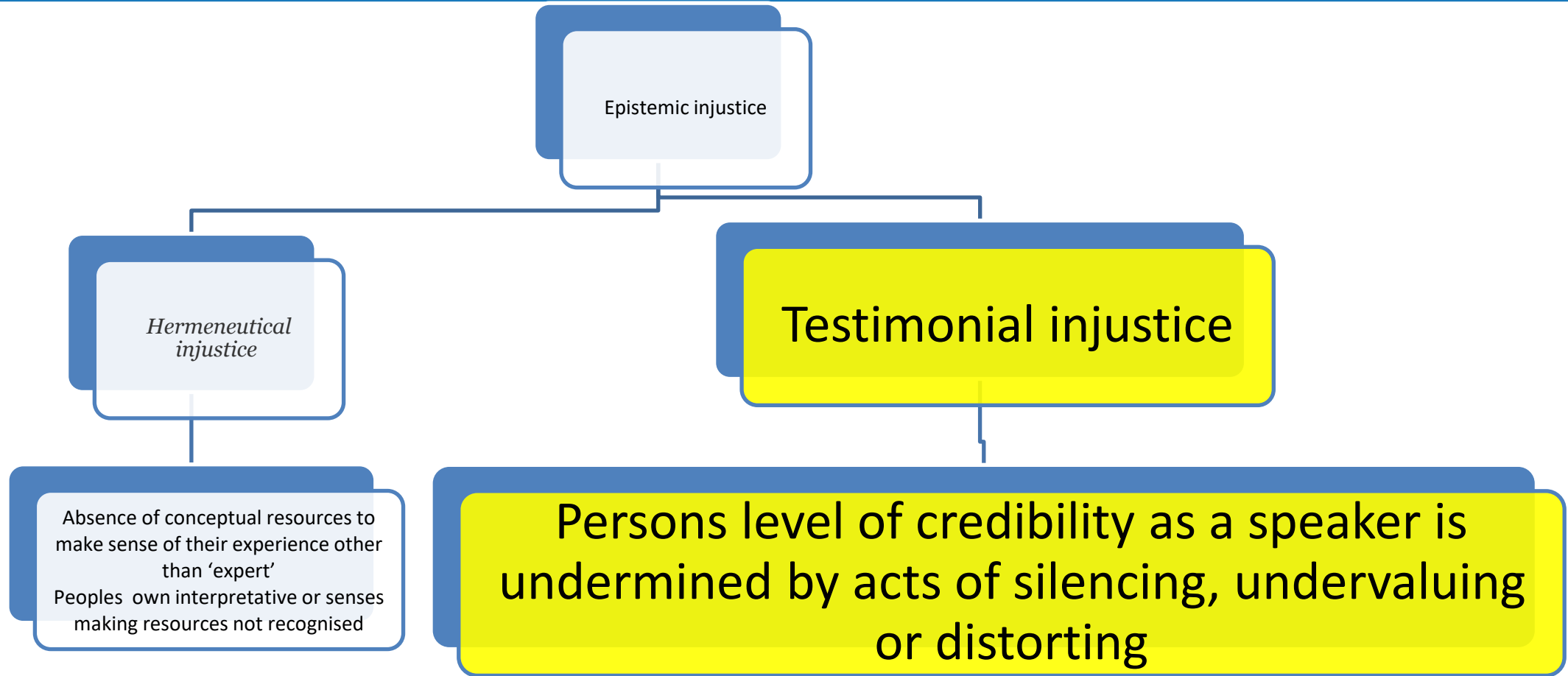


**There is an absence of conceptual resources or language to make sense or speak of experience other than 'expert' view  
Peoples own interpretative or senses making resources not recognised**

(Fricker 2007)



# Transformative way of thinking about power: Question –how does this impact



(Fricker 2007)

# Look at how we deal with resistance

It is the lightening that reveals the darkness



Power is productive - 'a point of resistance and a starting point for an opposing strategy' ... 'that not said is a hollow that undermines from within all that is said' (Foucault, M. 1991).

## **Disagree with or frame diagnosis in a different way:**

- Lack of insight
- Psychosis a spiritual crisis

## **Make decisions we don't agree with**

- Want to taper of medication
- Challenge the biochemical theory

## **Introduce new ideas within the system**

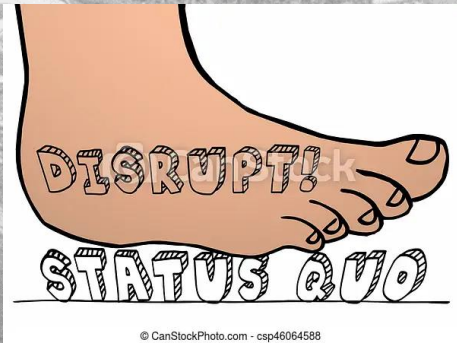
- Peer workers
- Open dialogue
- Power threat meaning framework  
<https://www.bps.org.uk/member-networks/division-clinical-psychology/power-threat-meaning-framework>

# The vision: how far have we travelled ?



*Paradigm shift*

Co-production “a new area of negotiation of meaning and representation”



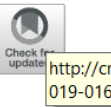
# Some great achievement

- Recovery colleges
- Wellness café
- Hearing voices movement
- Open dialogue
- Triologue meetings
- Mental health festivals
- Peer support services

## COMMENTARY

## Open Access

### Evaluating the acceptability of a co-produced and co-delivered mental health event festival: Mental Healtharta, Indonesia



<http://cr.19-016>

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10963827.2022.2140788>

REVIEW ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS

#### Evaluating recovery colleges: a co-created scoping review

Elizabeth Lin<sup>1</sup>, Holly Harris<sup>2</sup>, Georgina Black<sup>3</sup>, Gail Bellissimo<sup>4</sup>, Anna Di Giandomenico<sup>5</sup>, Terri Rodak<sup>6</sup>, Kenya A. Costa-Dookhan<sup>7</sup>, Rowen Shier<sup>8</sup>, Jordana Rovet<sup>9</sup>, Sam Gruszecki<sup>9</sup> and Sophie Soklaridis<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Education, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Whitby, Canada; <sup>3</sup>SPOR Patient Partner/DAC Patient with Lived Experience, Toronto, Canada; <sup>4</sup>Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Recovery Colleges (RCs) are education-based and skills development for managing mental health, well-being, and co-creation involving people with lived experience of mental health difficulties. RCs are evaluations and information about RCs. **Aims:** We describe a co-created scoping review of how RCs are implemented, also assessed were the frameworks, designs reported, the trustworthiness of the evidence; and whether RCs are effective. **Methods:** We followed Arksey and O'Malley's method. **Results:** Seventy-nine percent of the 43 included evaluations represented 33 RCs located in the UK (9%), the USA (6%), and Italy (3%). **Conclusion:** Our findings depict a developing field that is growing. However, few evaluations appeared to be co-created. All evaluations included a description of how much or how meaningful the evaluation was.

frontiers  
in Psychology

PERSPECTIVE  
published: 20 December 2021  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.744681



#### Introduction

Personal recovery in mental health and addictions (MH/A) defined as living a purposeful, meaningful life despite presence of mental distress (Slade, 2010). While recovery oriented practices existed in European healthcare setting early as 200 years ago, their appearance in North America at the national policy level did not occur until the late 1980s (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2004) and the early 2000s in Canada (Kirby & Keon, 2006). This introduction was a persistent consumer/survivor/ex-patient advocacy (Morro Weisser, 2012) and epidemiological evidence that substance symptom reduction could occur in mental illnesses previously thought to be "incurable" (Harding & Zahnsner, 1994).

The key conceptual shift introduced by recovery is the focus is the individual not the symptoms. The concept of recovery "... involves making sense of, and finding meaning in, what has happened; becoming an expert in your own self-care; building a new sense of self and purpose in discovering your own resourcefulness and possibilities

#### OPEN ACCESS

**Edited by:** Ottar Ness, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway  
**Reviewed by:** Ashley Clayton, Yale University, United States; Nicola Cogari, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom  
**\*Correspondence:** Liam Mac Gabhann  
liam.macgabhann@dcu.ie

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**Published:** 05 December 2021

### Triologue Meetings: Engaging Citizens and Fostering Communities of Wellbeing Through Collective Dialogue

Liam Mac Gabhann<sup>1\*</sup> and Simon Dunne<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>2</sup>School of Psychology, Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland

Community-based participatory approaches are widely recognized as valuable methods for improving mental health and well-being by enabling a greater sense of liberty among participants, through the development of equitable policies and practices, which accommodate a range of diverse perspectives. One such approach, "Triologue Meetings," has been found to encourage disclosure and dialogue surrounding mental health, facilitate the growth and development of communities in relation to people's experience of mental health difficulties, service provider and community response. Emerging in the 1990s because of perceived and felt inequitable relations between people with lived experience of mental health difficulties, family members of people with mental health difficulties and professionals providing mental health service provision. This approach has been shown to successfully reduce stigma and discrimination and improve relations between stakeholders in community and mental health care settings. Triologue Meetings incorporate Open Dialogue methods to allow multiple stakeholder groups to participate in conversations around a given topic and enable the creation of a common language and mutual understanding. Triologue Meetings have added benefits of allowing individuals to express themselves better, gain a sense of relationality and community with others and address predetermined power hierarchies with prescribed responses to people's experiences. In this perspective, we present an outline for Triologue Meetings as a medium for enhancing wellbeing, providing a transformative empowering process for deliberate discursive practice and engaging citizens through sustained collective dialogue.

**Keywords:** open dialogue, triologues, wellbeing, participation, citizenship, Triologue Meetings

### Emerging Processes Within Peer-Support Hearing Voices Groups: A Qualitative Study in the Dutch Context

Barbara Schaefer<sup>1\*</sup>, Jenny Boumans<sup>2</sup>, Jim van Os<sup>3,4</sup> and Jaap van Weeghel<sup>4,5,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Netherlands Group Academy, Parnassia Psychiatric Institute, The Hague, Netherlands; <sup>2</sup>Department of Community Care and Social Participation, Tilburg Institute for Mental Health, Tilburg, Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Zuyderland Medical Center, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands; <sup>4</sup>Department of Psychology, King's College London, King's Health Partners, Institute of Psychiatry, London, United Kingdom; <sup>5</sup>Prevention Center of Services for Severe Mental Illness, Utrecht, Netherlands; <sup>6</sup>Tranzo Scientific Center for Care and Wellbeing, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands

**Purpose/Aims:** This study aimed to gain insight into the value of Hearing Voices Groups (HVGs) in the Dutch context. Specifically, we aimed to learn more about the meaning of HVG participation, as well as the aspects that contribute to that meaning, from the perspective of participants' experiences.

**Method:** The study used a qualitative design with in-depth interviews to explore the experiences of 30 members within seven HVGs in the Netherlands. Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using interpretive analysis inspired by the grounded Theory method.

**Findings:** The individual-level analysis revealed four different group processes that appear to determine the value that HVGs have for their participants: (i) peer-to-peer validation, (ii) exchanging information and sharing self-accumulated knowledge, (iii) connection and social support, and (iv) engaging in mutual self-reflection. We found that specific characteristics of HVGs facilitate these group processes and lead to specific personal outcomes. Combining the interview data from people who joined the same HVG reveals that, although all four described group processes occur in all groups, each group's emphasis differs. Three related factors are described: (i) the composition of the group, (ii) the style of the facilitators, and (iii) the interaction between group processes and individual processes.

**Implications:** Unique processes, for which there is little to no place within regular mental health care (MHC), occur within HVGs. MHC professionals should be more aware of the opportunities HVG can offer voice-hearers. Essential matters regarding the implementation of HVGs are discussed.

**Keywords:** hearing voices groups, peer support, self-help, auditory hallucinations, psychosis, personal recovery, qualitative research

# Evidence: Recovery colleges

**Table 2** Contribution of studies to themes

Study	A shift in power	Being connected	Personal growth	Adopting the role of a student	Managing expectations
Cameron <i>et al.</i> (2018)	X	X	X	X	-
Dunn <i>et al.</i> (2016)	-	X	-	X	X
Ebrahim <i>et al.</i> (2018)	X	X	X	X	-
Harper and McKeown (2018)	X	X	X	X	X
Kay and Edgley (2019)	X	X	X	X	-
Meddings <i>et al.</i> (2014)	X	X	X	X	X
Newman-Taylor <i>et al.</i> (2016)	-	X	X	-	-
Stevens <i>et al.</i> (2018)	X	X	X	X	-
Thompson <i>et al.</i> (2021)	X	X	X	-	-
Wilson <i>et al.</i> (2019)	X	X	X	X	X
Windsor <i>et al.</i> (2017)	X	X	X	X	-
Zabel <i>et al.</i> (2016)	X	X	X	X	X

## Conclusion

Co-production is functioning encouragingly within the Recovery Colleges studied. This is especially true in the context of **sharing power, valuing lived experience, and changing practitioner attitudes**. They are springboard to opportunities; opening doors, increased self-awareness and understanding increased confidence and worth, empowerment and control

## What is the impact of recovery colleges on students? A thematic synthesis of qualitative evidence

Ruby Whish, Catherine Huckle and Oliver Mason

### Abstract

**Purpose** – Recovery colleges have workshops on topics of mental health review aims to synthesise findings from on student well-being.

**Design/Methodology/Approach** – December 2021. Four databases were used to identify studies that met the criteria for review and analysis.

**Findings** – Five themes were identified: “Adopting the role of a student”, “Adopting the role of a student”, “Adopting the role of a student”, “Adopting the role of a student”, “Adopting the role of a student”.

**Research Limitations/Implications** suggest that much of the recovery college experience is not captured in the current literature. However, the review also demonstrates that students understand the support on offer and that recovery colleges are valued.

**Practical Implications** – Several implications for practice and research are discussed. Independent researchers is paramount to the success of recovery colleges.

**Originality/value** – It is nearly eight years since the first recovery college was established in the UK. This review provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of the field.

**Keywords** Co-production, Recovery colleges, Literature review

### Introduction

Recovery colleges are learning environments that provide a range of educational, social and therapeutic opportunities for people with lived experience of mental health problems (Huckle, 2017). Recovery colleges are educational, as opposed to therapeutic, in nature. They are based on the principle of co-production, where people with lived experience and professionals work together to design and deliver services. This educational approach to mental health care is based on the concept of “recovery” (Huckle, 2011). These centres were one of the first “recovery colleges” in Boston, USA, and were guided by research that showed that people with severe mental health issues (Huckle, 2011). The first recovery college in the UK was set up on campus at a university in 2009. Recovery colleges are now being established in many parts of the world, and are becoming an important part of mental health care provision for people with lived experience of mental health problems.

DOI 10.1080/1360/11/2021/1030 VOL 17 NO 5 2022

## Recovery colleges: long-term impact and mechanisms of change

Holly Thompson, Laura Simonds, Sylvie Barr and Sara Meddings

Holly Thompson and Laura Simonds are both based at the University of Surrey, Guildford, UK. Sara Meddings is based at Psychological Therapies, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust, UK.

### Abstract

**Purpose** – Recovery Colleges are an innovative approach which adopt an educational paradigm and aim to support people with lived experience of mental health problems to achieve recovery.

### REVIEW ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

### Evaluating recovery colleges: a co-created scoping review

Elizabeth Lin<sup>a</sup>, Holly Harris<sup>b</sup>, Georgia Black<sup>c</sup>, Gail Bellissimo<sup>d</sup>, Anna Di Giandomenico<sup>e</sup>, Terri Rodak<sup>f</sup>, Kenya A. Costa-Dookhan<sup>g</sup>, Rowen Shier<sup>h</sup>, Jordana Rovet<sup>i</sup>, Sam Gruszecki<sup>j</sup> and Sophie Soklaridis<sup>k</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Education, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Whitby, Canada; <sup>c</sup>SPOR Patient Partner/DAC Patient with Lived Experience, Toronto, Canada; <sup>d</sup>Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Recovery Colleges (RCs) are education-based centres providing information, networking, and skills development for managing mental health, well-being, and daily living. A central principle is co-creation involving people with lived experience of mental health/illness and/or addictions (MHA). Identified gaps are RCs evaluations and information about whether such evaluations are co-created.

**Aims:** We describe a co-created scoping review of how RCs are evaluated in the published and grey literature. Also assessed were: the frameworks, designs, and analyses used; the themes/outcomes reported; the trustworthiness of the evidence; and whether the evaluations are co-created.

**Methods:** We followed Arksey and O'Malley's methodology with one important modification: “consultation” was re-conceptualised as “co-creator engagement” and was the first, foundational step rather than the last, optional one.

**Results:** Seventy-nine percent of the 43 included evaluations were peer-reviewed, 21% grey literature. These evaluations represented 33 RCs located in the UK (58%), Australia (15%), Canada (9%), Ireland (9%), the USA (6%), and Italy (3%).

**Conclusion:** Our findings depict a developing field that is exploring a mix of evaluative approaches. However, few evaluations appeared to be co-created. Although most studies referenced co-design/co-production, few described how much or how meaningfully people with lived experience were involved in the evaluation.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 16 May 2022  
Revised 6 September 2022  
Accepted 12 September 2022  
Published online 27 October 2022

### KEYWORDS

Recovery college; evaluation; scoping review; co-creation

### Introduction

Personal recovery in mental health and addictions (MHA) is defined as living a purposeful, meaningful life despite the presence of mental distress (Slade, 2010). While recovery-oriented practices existed in European healthcare settings as early as 200 years ago, their appearance in North America at the national policy level did not occur until the late 1980s in the U.S. (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2004) and the early 2000s in Canada (Kirby & Keon, 2006). This introduction was due to persistent consumer/survivor/ex-patient advocacy (Morrow & Weisser, 2012) and epidemiological evidence that substantial symptom reduction could occur in mental illnesses previously thought to be “incurable” (Harding & Zahriser, 1994).

The key conceptual shift introduced by recovery is that the focus is the individual not the symptoms. The concept of recovery “... involves making sense of, and finding meaning in, what has happened; becoming an expert in your own self-care; building a new sense of self and purpose in life; discovering your own resourcefulness and possibilities and

your aspirations and goals” (Perkins *et al.*, 2012, p. 2). In this context, social inclusion can be a significant goal for many people working toward recovery (Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2015).

However, despite decades of efforts to incorporate a recovery approach into the mental health care system, people with lived experience of mental health/illness and/or addictions (MHA) continue to confront inequitable social inclusion, including high rates of un- and under-employment and low rates of educational achievement (Whitley *et al.*, 2019). In response, recovery colleges (RCs) were developed and first implemented in 2009 in the United Kingdom. They have since been established in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, and the United States (Perkins *et al.*, 2018). Drawing on educational theories such as transformative and constructivist learning (Hoban, 2015), RCs provide education and skills development courses to help manage and navigate daily living.

A critical principle is that RCs are co-created by people with lived experience of MHA and people with other forms of relevant expertise (e.g. mental health professionals,

Declarations of interest: With thanks to Lucy Lin, Lucy Walsh, Louise Park and Sam Robertson for their contributions to this review.

# Recovery Colleges

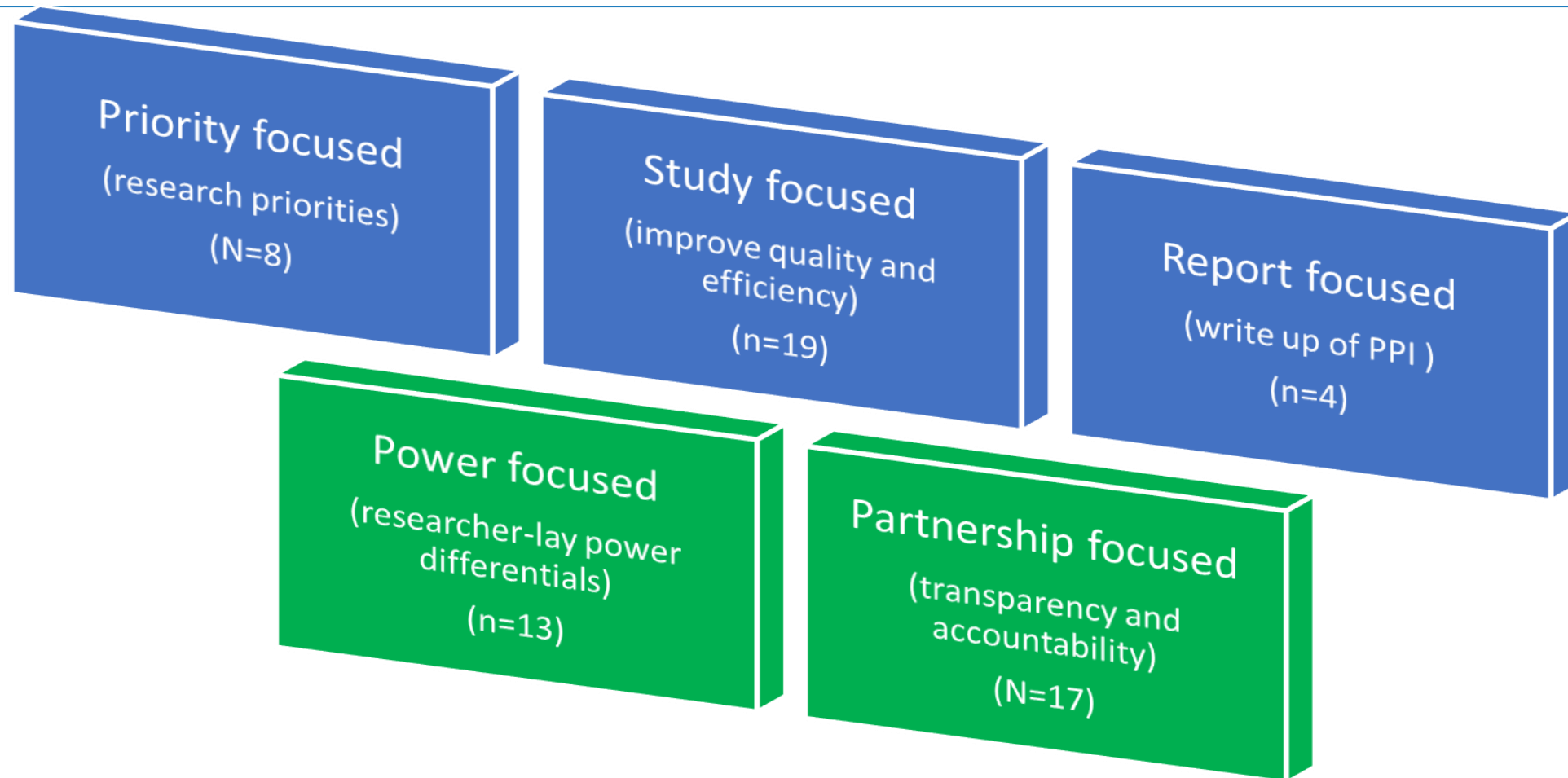
- Changes within the colleges boundaries
  - relational boundaries (provider and recipient)
  - knowledge boundaries – lived experience
- Challenge to ideological power (diagnosis)
  - people enabled to make sense of their stress using an array of understandings and have power to author own story

Recovery colleges and the ethos of Recovery colleges have **little impact on wider mental health services**

# The Vision: how far have we travelled within the system



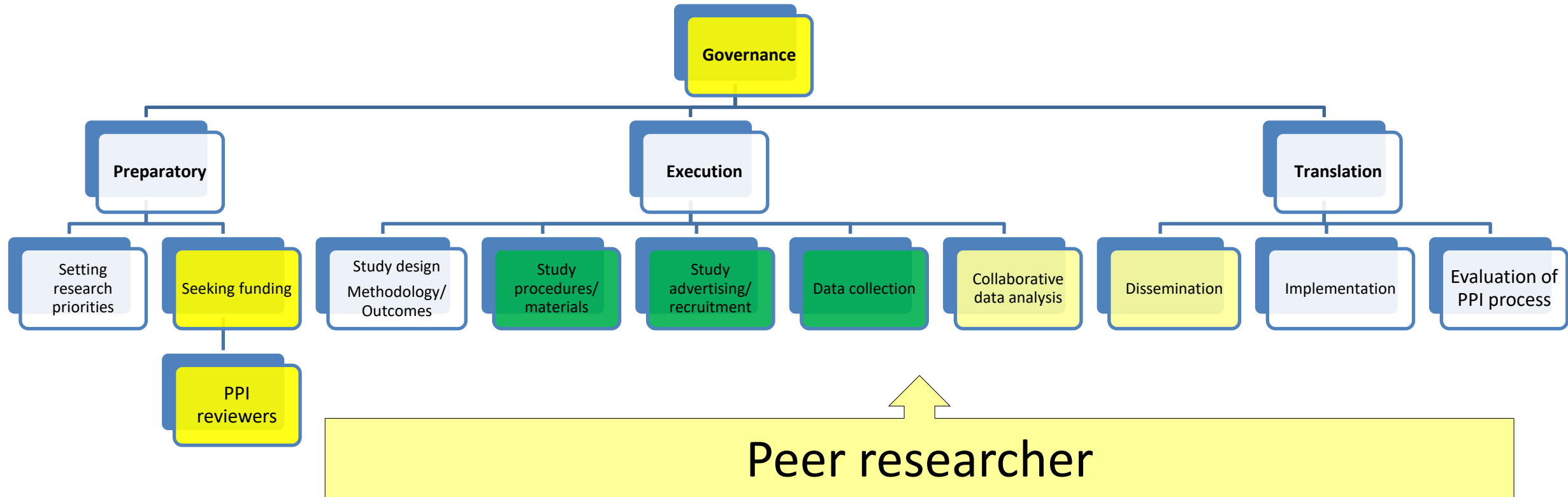
# Meta level research: typology of framework for supporting co-production



Greenhalgh T, Hinton L, Finlay T, et al. Frameworks for supporting patient and public involvement in research: Systematic review and co-design pilot. *Health Expect.* 2019;22:785–801. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12888>



# Research: reality of involvement



Stanley et al (2013) Service users as collaborators in mental health research: less stick, more carrot Psychol Med. 43(6): 1121–1125

Sangill, C., Buus, N., Hybholt, L., & Berring, L. L. (2019). Service user's actual involvement in mental health research practices: A scoping review. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing, 28(4)*, 798-815. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.12>

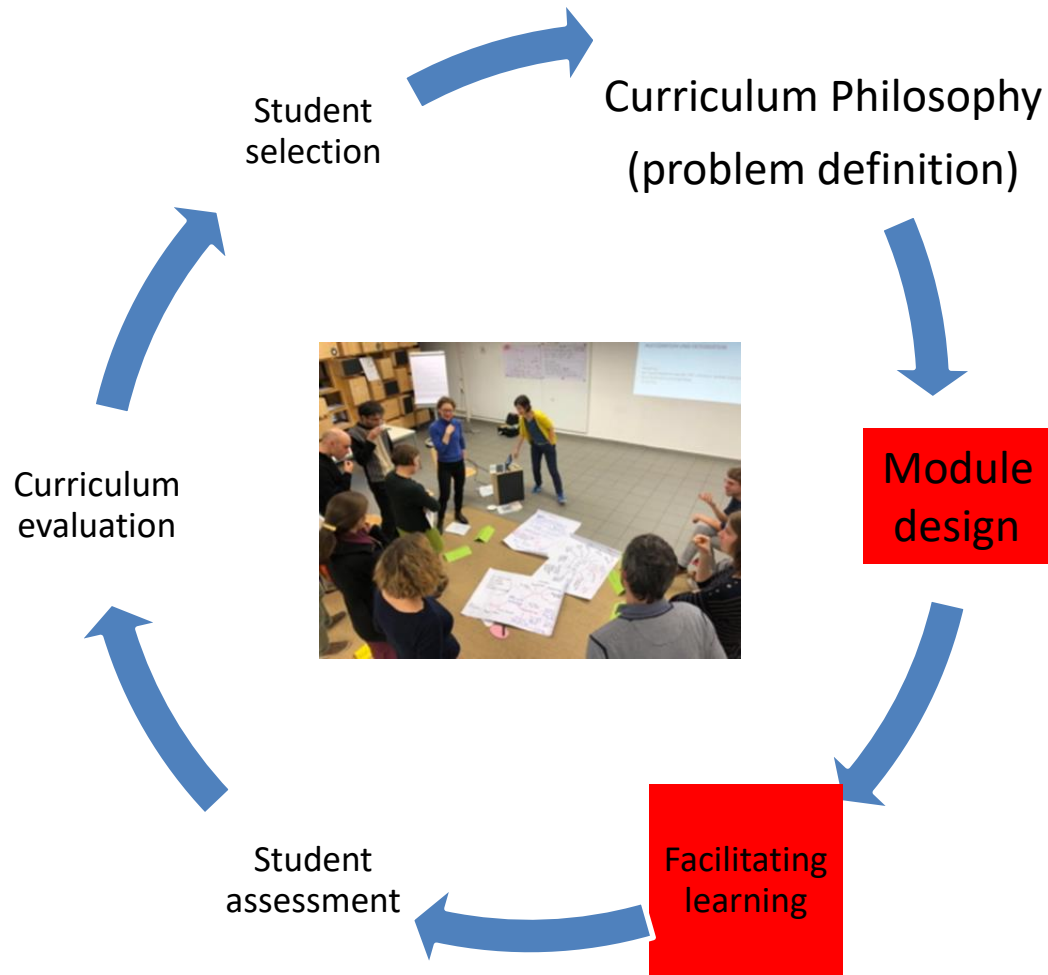
Smith, H, Budworth L, Grindey, C et al (2022) Co-production practice and future research priorities in the UK; a scoping review *Health Research Policy and Systems 20:36* <https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-022-00838-x>

# Macro level -Policy



- Few policies are co-produced
- Co-production translated into language of advise, consultation involvement
- Political aspirations muted or lost in the manner in which mental distress is framed and interventions proposed

# Meso level: Pedagogy of practitioner education



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DOI: 10.1111/jm.12870

**LIVED EXPERIENCE NARRATIVE**

## Holding Hope: Co-producing eating disorders education that integrates the lived experience voice to inform best practice

Steve Wise<sup>4,5</sup> | Shannon Calvert<sup>6,7</sup>

**Advances in Health Sciences Education**  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10459-022-10157-z>

**“Come and share your story and make everyone cry”:  
complicating service user educator storytelling in mental  
health professional education**

Stephanie LeBlanc-Omstead<sup>1</sup> · Elizabeth Anne Kinsella<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Received: 17 January 2022 / Accepted: 16 August 2022  
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**Abstract**

**Learning from lived experience: Outcomes associated with students’ involvement in co-designed and co-delivered recovery-oriented practice workshops**

Justin Newton Scanlan<sup>1</sup> | Bridget Berry<sup>2</sup> | Karen Wells<sup>2</sup> | Jennie Somerville<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract**  
**Introduction:** Learning from individuals with lived experience is considered an important element of developing recovery-oriented practice capabilities in mental health contexts. Additionally, service user involvement in the education of occupational therapy students is a requirement in accreditation standards. Despite this, many barriers to meaningful inclusion of Lived Experience Educators have previously been identified.  
**Method:** This study evaluated the outcomes achieved by students who were

**Accessible Summary**  
**What is known on the subject?**  
• Eating Disorder (ED) education is predominating taught through a DSM-V diagnostic criteria and clinically focused lens devoid of lived experience expertise.  
**What the paper adds to existing knowledge?**  
• Current clinically focused ED education may be shaping health professional misunderstandings of EDs, influencing the therapeutic relationships between health professional and consumer which is key to the recovery process.  
• Integrating the lived experience voice through co-produced, humanities-based ED education deepens understandings and honours the complexities of EDs by bringing a much-needed, alternate perspective to health professional learning, practice and research.  
**What are the implications for mental health nursing?**  
• Reframing mental health education towards a more strengths-based, trauma-informed and recovery focused lens has the potential to upskill the health workforce in how to hold hope, space and learn to walk the fight with people living and recovering with an ED.

**KEYWORDS**  
eating disorders, education, medical humanities, narratives, patient experience

supports re-2019), rctic clinical g with other e living with gory or box.

# Meso level of service provision: co-produced interventions

## Some examples

- co-produced psychoeducation
- co-facilitated education

## Challenge

- Embedding within system
- Challenging biomedical understandings

*Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*, page 1 of 10. © College of Psychiatrists of Ireland 2019  
doi:10.1017/ijpm.2019.32

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## Evaluation of a co-facilitated information and learning programme for service users: the EOLAS programme

<sup>1</sup>, N. Cusack<sup>4</sup> and P. Gibbons<sup>4</sup>

The CORE study—An adapted mental health experience codesign intervention to improve psychosocial recovery for people with severe mental illness: A stepped wedge cluster randomized-controlled trial

Victoria J. Palmer PhD, BA(Hons)<sup>1,2</sup> | Patty Chondros PhD, Associate Professor<sup>1,2</sup> | John Furler PhD, FRACGP, Professorial Research Fellow<sup>1</sup> | Helen Herrman MD, FRANZCP, Professor<sup>3</sup> | David Pierce MD, Associate Professor<sup>4</sup> | Kali Godbee MPsych<sup>1</sup> | Konstancja Densley MSocSci, MStats<sup>1,2</sup> | Jane M. Gunn PhD, FRACGP, Professor<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Department of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne Medical School, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

<sup>2</sup>The ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

<sup>3</sup>Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

<sup>4</sup>Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia

### Correspondence

Victoria J. Palmer, PhD, BA(Hons), The Department of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne Medical School, The University of Melbourne, 2/780 Elizabeth St, Parkville, VIC 3051, Australia.  
Email: vpalmer@unimelb.edu.au

### Funding information

Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria Government; Mental Illness Research Fund (MIRF: 28) and the Psychiatric Illness and Intellectual Disability Donations Trust Fund (PIDDTF)

### Abstract

**Background:** Mental health policies outline the need for codesign of services and quality improvement in partnership with service users and staff (and sometimes carers), and yet, evidence of systematic implementation and the impacts on healthcare outcomes is limited.

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to test whether an adapted mental health experience codesign intervention to improve recovery-orientation of services led to greater psychosocial recovery outcomes for service users.

**Design:** A stepped wedge cluster randomized-controlled trial was conducted.

**Setting and Participants:** Four Mental Health Community Support Services providers, 287 people living with severe mental illnesses, 61 carers and 120 staff were recruited across Victoria, Australia.

**Main Outcome Measures:** The 24-item Revised Recovery Assessment Scale (RAS-R) measured individual psychosocial recovery.

**Results:** A total of 841 observations were completed with 287 service users. The intention-to-treat analysis found RAS-R scores to be similar between the intervention (mean = 84.7, SD = 15.6) and control (mean = 86.5, SD = 15.3) phases; the adjusted estimated difference in the mean RAS-R score was -1.70 (95% confidence interval: -3.81 to 0.40;  $p = .11$ ).

**Discussion:** This first trial of an adapted mental health experience codesign intervention for psychosocial recovery outcomes found no difference between the intervention and control arms.

ation programmes is one way in which service users

nation programme on service users' knowledge, confidence of the programme.

changes in knowledge, confidence, advocacy, recovery-structured interviews with programme participants eyes and twelve individuals consented to interviews. users' knowledge about mental health issues, confidence emerged from the interviews with participants (n less, and a greater sense of hope. In addition, the peer facilitation engendered equality of participation and rs and practitioners.

ser and clinician co-facilitated education programme

# Meso level of service provision: peer workers

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## The effectiveness of one-to-one support in mental health services: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Sarah White<sup>1</sup>, Rhiannon Foster<sup>1</sup>, Jacqueline Marks<sup>1</sup>, Rosaleen A. O'Connell<sup>1</sup>

Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research (2022) 49:596–608  
https://doi.org/10.1007/s12888-021-01186-8

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Narrative Review of Factors Influencing Peer Support Role Implementation in Mental Health Systems: Implications for Research, Policy and Practice

Elmira Mirbahaeddin<sup>1</sup> · Samia Chrem<sup>1</sup>

Accepted: 28 December 2021 / Published online: 11 January 2022  
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials of people with severe mental illness

Brynmor Lloyd-Evans<sup>1\*</sup>, Evan Mayo-Wilson<sup>2</sup>, Bronwyn Harrison<sup>2</sup>, Hannah Sonia Johnson<sup>1</sup> and Tim Kendall<sup>1</sup>

Abstract

**Background:** Illness.

**Method:** A :  
PsychINFO, or  
non-resident  
separately at  
were perform  
**Results:** Eight  
programme:  
variation bet  
reported; th  
there was lit  
symptoms c  
effects on r  
was not con  
**Conclusion:**  
current trials  
positive find  
recommend  
support pro

Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology (2020) 55:285–291  
https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-019-01739-1

ORIGINAL PAPER

**Abstract**  
With increasing calls to incorporate recovery principles into conventional mental health care, the importance of peer support worker (PSW) services has gained attention. However, studies consistently show that PSWs remain underutilized. Although research addresses several factors that influence formal implementation of their role, there is lack of a comprehensive framework that synthesizes the factors and addresses their interlevel interactions. This paper provides a narrative review and synthesis of literature on multilevel factors that influence formal PSW role implementation in mental health systems. We conducted a search of literature and reviewed 38 articles that met inclusion criteria. Our thematic analysis involved identifying first and second order categories that applied across studies, and developing third order interpretations through iterations. We synthesized the findings in a multilevel framework consisting of macro, meso and micro level influences. Influencing factors at the macro level include broader socio-cultural factors (medical model, recovery values, professional power dynamics, training and certification, regulatory and political factors (policy mandates, political commitment), and economic and financial factors (funding, affordability of services). Factors at the meso level include organizational culture, organizational leadership, change management, and human resource management policies. Micro level influences pertain to relationships between PSWs and team members, and PSW wellbeing. Interlevel interactions are also outlined. Limitations and implications for research, policy and practice are addressed.

**Keywords:** Peer support · Role implementation · Mental health · Multilevel framework · Narrative review

**Introduction**

Research has increasingly shown that peer support plays an important role in mental health systems (Byrne et al., 2016; Gattard et al., 2015; McCarthy et al., 2019; One et al., 2020). Health systems in various countries such as the US, Canada, UK and Australia are increasingly recognizing the role of peer support workers (PSWs) in mental health services (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013; Cyr et al., 2016; Department of Health (DH), 2012; SAMHSA, 2021). However, studies consistently show that PSWs remain underutilized in formal mental health systems because of various barriers and influences on implementation of their role (One et al., 2020a). This paper provides a narrative review of the literature on the multilevel influences on peer support role implementation. A peer supporter in mental health is a person who has lived experience of mental health issues and offers support or services to others with mental health issues. Peer support is "a system of giving and receiving help founded on key principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement of what is helpful" (Mead et al., 2001, p. 135). Solomon (2004) categorizes peer support into four groups ranging from voluntary to formal, specifically: self-help groups, peer run services, peer partnerships, and peer employees. The focus of this paper is on peer employees or paid peer support workers (PSWs), who—unlike those who engage in voluntary peer support—hold formal roles in mental health/social services organizations. PSWs provide services in a variety of settings that include hospitals,

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## A systematic review of influences on implementation of peer support work for adults with mental health problems

Nashwa Ibrahim<sup>1,2</sup> · Dean Thompson<sup>1</sup> · Rebecca Nixdorf<sup>3</sup> · Jasmine Kalha<sup>4</sup> · Richard Mpango<sup>5</sup> · Galia Moran<sup>6</sup> · Annabel Mueller-Stierlin<sup>7</sup> · Grace Ryan<sup>8</sup> · Candelaria Mahilke<sup>8</sup> · Donat Shamba<sup>9</sup> · Bernd Puschner<sup>5</sup> · Julie Repper<sup>10</sup> · Mike Slade<sup>10</sup>

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**Abstract**

**Purpose:** The evidence base for peer support work in mental health is established, yet implementation remains a challenge. The aim of this systematic review was to identify influences which facilitate or are barriers to implementation of mental health peer support work.

**Methods:** Data sources comprised online databases ( $n = 11$ ), journal table of contents ( $n = 2$ ), conference proceedings ( $n = 18$ ), peer support websites ( $n = 2$ ), expert consultation ( $n = 38$ ) and forward and backward citation tracking. Publications were included if they reported on implementation facilitators or barriers for formal face-to-face peer support work with adults with a mental health problem, and were available in English, French, German, Hebrew, Luganda, Spanish or Swahili. Data were analysed using narrative synthesis. A six-site international survey [Germany (2 sites), India, Israel, Tanzania,

- Positive effect on
  - empowerment, hope and self-reported recovery
  - working alliance between service users and mental health workers, and social network support.
- Many barriers to integration
  - organisational culture, practitioner knowledge and attitudes
  - burn out or break out
- Addition of peer workers within services and teams in isolation of changes to other parts of the service culture is inadequate to foster recovery-oriented services

# Microsystem- interpersonal level of care

## Coproduction Cycle

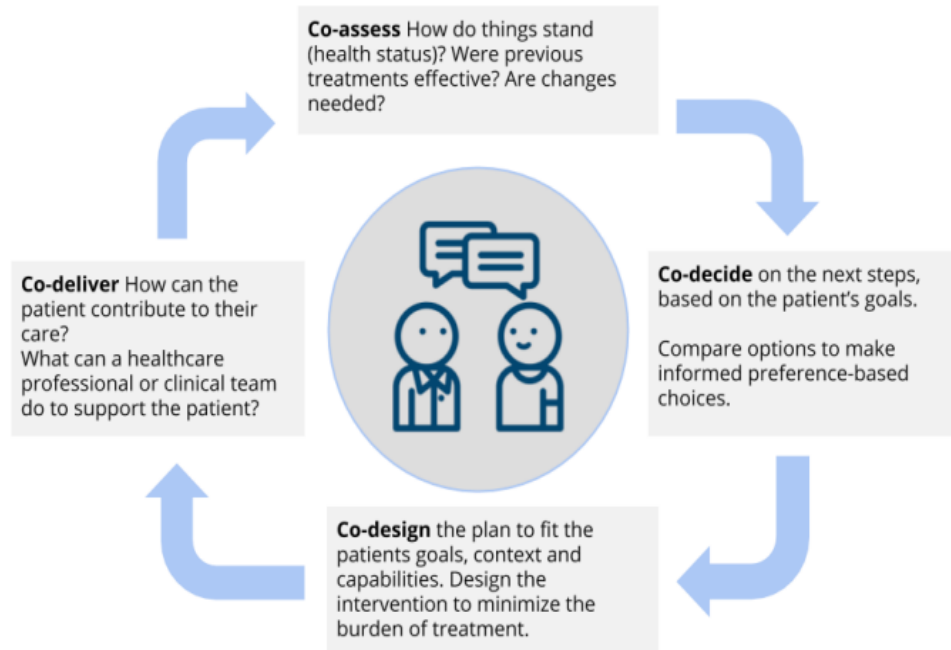


Figure 1 Coproduction cycle: cooperation for optimal care.

Co-production implies equality not just in the sense of persons but at the level of how knowledge itself is valued”



## Coproduction: when users define quality

VIEWPOINT

Glyn Elwyn<sup>1</sup>, Eugene Nelson,<sup>1</sup> Andreas Hager,<sup>2</sup> Amy Price<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Upstream Dream, Alviksvägen 43, SE-167 55, Stockholm, Bromma, Sweden  
<sup>3</sup>MedicineX, Department of Anesthesiology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA

Correspondence to Professor Glyn Elwyn, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA; glynelwyn@gmail.com

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► <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjqs-2019-010059>



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### INTRODUCTION

If the core aim of a healthcare system is to minimise both illness and treatment burden while reducing the costs of care delivery, then we must accept, however reluctantly, that our efforts are largely failing.

Life expectancy in highly developed countries is declining for the first time in decades. Long-term conditions and obesity are replacing infectious diseases as the most prominent health problems in developing nations. Meanwhile, average per capita healthcare expenditures are increasing despite efforts to restrain them. For example, in the USA, the average per capita healthcare expenditures are approaching \$10000 a year and consuming over 18% of its gross domestic product. Innovations in biomedicine, information technology and healthcare delivery systems may help address some of the challenges, but instead of containing costs these innovations tend to expand services.

There are indications that interest in a concept called coproduction in healthcare is increasing. The core thesis is that by leveraging professional and end user collaboration, patients can be supported to contribute more to the management of their own conditions. This is especially true when dealing with long-term conditions, where supporting the person to learn how best to reduce the burden of both illness and treatment is an undisputed good. The goal is to cocreate value.

Healthcare service is of course more complex than a travel agency, bank or a ride share service. Health is a long-term commitment that requires specialised and nuanced expertise of clinicians and patients. The context and complexity are constantly changing: attention to short-term problems at age 20 is vastly different from dealing with dementia or with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease diagnosis in a man of 80. As options for managing illness expand, so does the role of coproduction, both at individual and population levels. The use of standardised incentives may conflict with the agreements achieved by collaboration. For example, my provider and I might decide not-so-tight control of my cholesterol is best given the low-risk factors and significant side effects. A clinician might be working in a pay-for-performance environment where statins prescribing is rewarded. Patient-centred models, such as the chronic care model,<sup>4</sup> patient engagement,<sup>5</sup> evidence-based self-management<sup>6</sup> and shared decision making,<sup>7</sup> may need to address these challenges if they are to

To cite: Elwyn G, Nelson E, Hager A, *et al.* *BMJ Qual Saf* 2020;**29**:711–716.

to note that

# Microsystem- interpersonal level of care

- Nurses have positive attitude and indicated that service users should participate in service delivery and care (espoused theory)
- ***Nurses take control of decisions when they perceived that service users' decisions were detrimental (THEORY IN USE)***
- Litmus test what service users say
  - Many service users still experience exclusion from decision making
  - If involved it is often tokenistic and service user preferences were typically only incorporated when they accorded with health professionals' views about appropriate treatment.
  - Reauthor peoples stories within the diagnostic framework , listening for symptoms - ' symptom spotters'

Stomski and Morrison *Int J Ment Health Syst* (2017) 11:67  
DOI 10.1186/s13033-017-0174-y

International Journal of  
Mental Health Systems

REVIEW

Open Access



## Participation in mental healthcare: a qualitative

Norman J. Stomski\*

**BJPsych** The British Journal of Psychiatry (2019)  
214, 329–338. doi: 10.1192/bjp.2019.22

### Review

#### Abstract

**Background:** Facility service users continue research about participation in mental health services. **Methods:** Electron qualitative studies, Appraisal Skills Program used to identify similar service user participation knowledge; lacking **Conclusions:** This aspiration, which gets the delivery of mental health services

### Experiences of in-patient mental health services: systematic review

Sophie Staniszewska, Carole Mockford, Greg Chadburn, Sarah-Jane Fenton, Kamaldeep Bhui, Michael Larkin, Elizabeth Newton, David Crepez-Keay, Frances Griffiths and Scott Welch

#### Background

In-patients in crisis report poor experiences of mental healthcare not conducive to recovery. Concerns include coercion by staff, fear of assault from other patients, lack of therapeutic opportunities and limited support. There is little high-quality evidence on what is important to patients to inform recovery-focused care.

#### Aims

To conduct a systematic review of published literature, identifying key themes for improving experiences of in-patient mental healthcare.

#### Method

A systematic search of online databases (MEDLINE, PsycINFO and CINAHL) for primary research published between January 2000 and January 2016. All study designs from all countries were eligible. A qualitative analysis was undertaken and study quality was appraised. A patient and public reference group contributed to the review.

#### Results

Studies (72) from 16 countries found four dimensions were consistently related to significantly influencing in-patients' experiences of crisis and recovery-focused care: the importance

of high-quality relationships; averting negative experiences of coercion; a healthy, safe and enabling physical and social environment; and authentic experiences of patient-centred care. Critical elements for patients were trust, respect, safe wards, information and explanation about clinical decisions, therapeutic activities, and family inclusion in care.

#### Conclusions

A number of experiences hinder recovery-focused care and must be addressed with the involvement of staff to provide high-quality in-patient services. Future evaluations of service quality and development of practice guidance should embed these four dimensions.

#### Declaration of interest

K.B. is editor of *British Journal of Psychiatry* and leads a national programme (Synergy Collaborative Centre) on patient experiences driving change in services and inequalities.

#### Keywords

In-patient; mental health services; experiences; systematic review.

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#### Method

The review was divided into a scoping review to ascertain the nature and size of the evidence base, and the main systematic review.

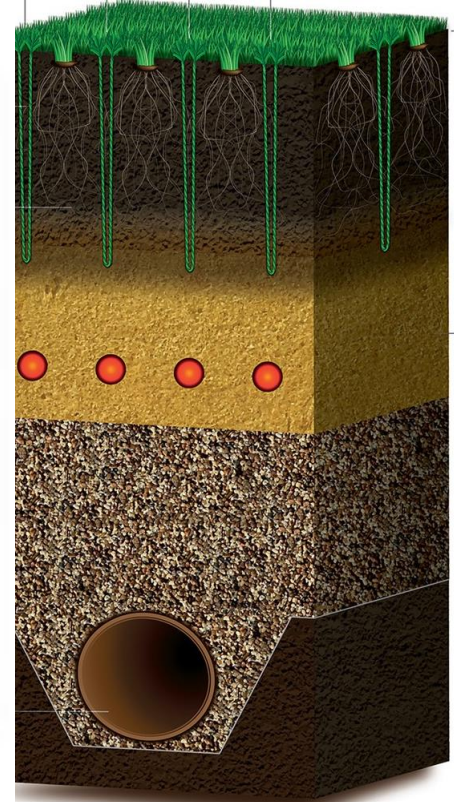
#### Protocol and registration

The EURIPIDES (Evaluating the Use of Patient Experience Data to Improve the Quality of Inpatient Mental Health Care) systematic review was registered in 2016 on PROSPERO: CRD42016033556.

#### Setting

The National Health Service (NHS) is under pressure to deliver

# What we see:

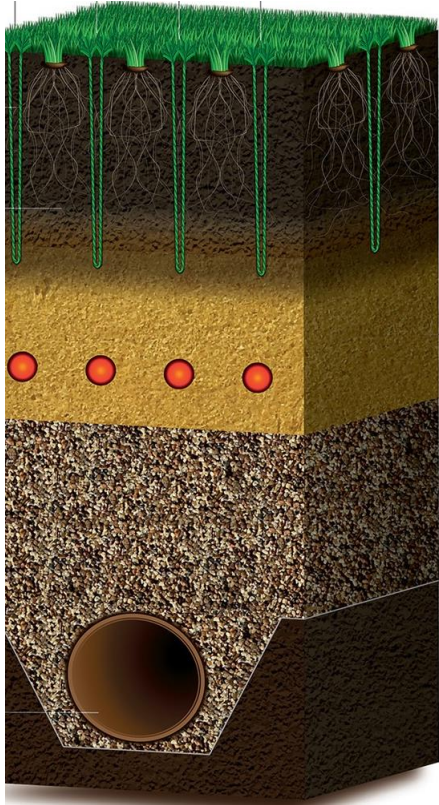




# What we see:



Managerialist/consumerist/market based approach



# So is it a dead concept that just created a ripple

Not an off-the-shelf model of service provision or a single magic solution' (Needham and Carr 2009:p1)

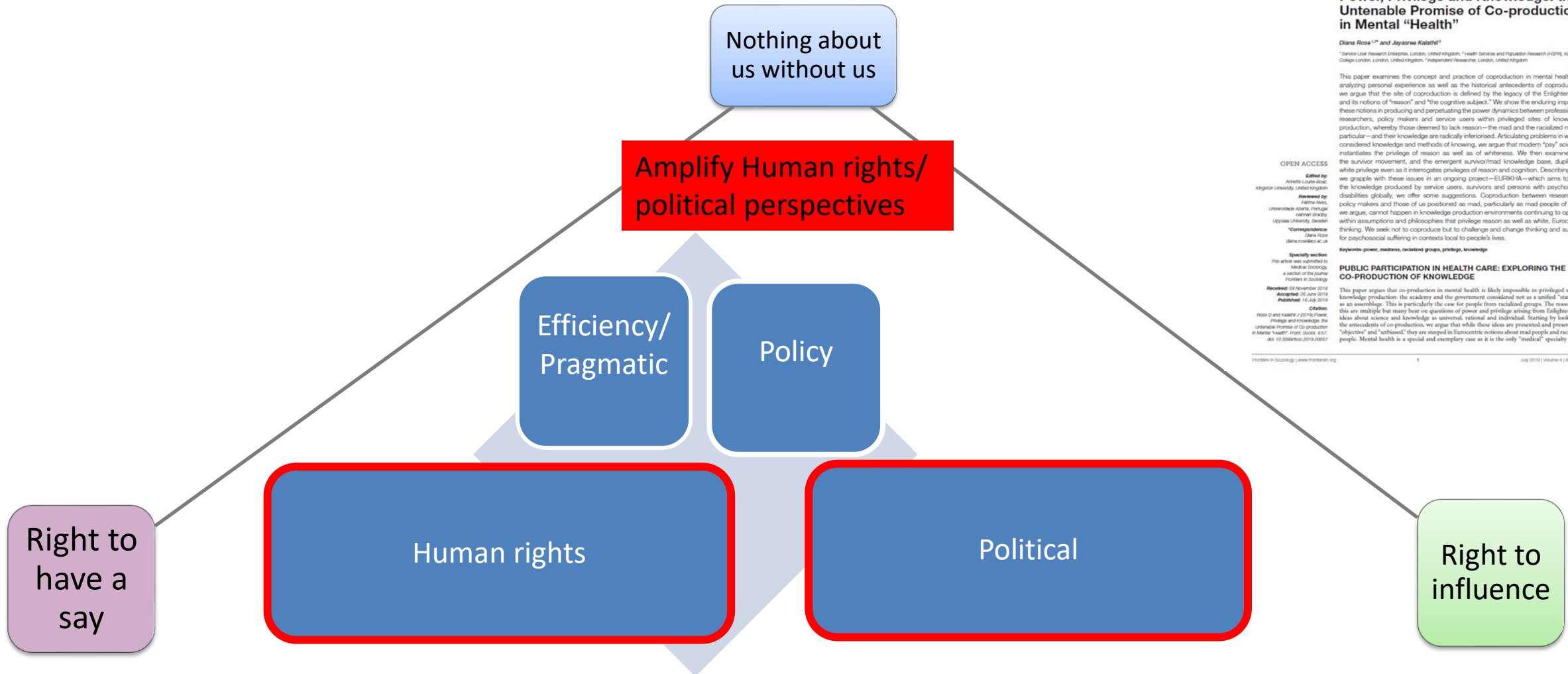
## 50 Reasons Not To Change



• Is it possible ??????????????????

- at the micro level of the individual with a legal system that operates rights of detention and a medical system that has power to label
- within a mental health system that defaults to resistance, co-option or colonisation

# No easy solution: some thoughts



frontiers  
in Sociology

HYPOTHESIS AND THEORY  
published: 04 July 2019  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00067

**Power, Privilege and Knowledge: the Untenable Promise of Co-production in Mental "Health"**

Diana Ross<sup>1\*</sup> and Jaysree Kalathil<sup>2†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Service User Research Institute, London, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>Health Services and Population Research (HSPR), King's College London, London, United Kingdom, <sup>†</sup>Independent Researcher, London, United Kingdom

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This paper examines the concept and practice of coproduction in mental health. By analyzing personal experience as well as the historical antecedents of coproduction, we argue that the site of coproduction is defined by the legacy of the Enlightenment and its notions of "reason" and "the cognitive subject." We show the enduring impact of these notions in producing and perpetuating the power dynamics between professionals, researchers, policy makers and service users within privileged sites of knowledge production, whereby those deemed to lack reason—the mad and the racialized mad in particular—and their knowledge are radically inferiorized. Articulating problems in what is considered knowledge and methods of knowing, we argue that modern "psy" sciences instantiate the privilege of reason as well as of whiteness. We then examine how the survivor movement, and the emergent survivor/mad knowledge base, duplicates white privilege even as it interrogates privileges of reason and cognition. Describing how we grapple with these issues in an ongoing project—ELISAVA—which aims to map the knowledge produced by service users, survivors and persons with psychosocial disabilities globally, we offer some suggestions. Coproduction between researchers, policy makers and those of us positioned as mad, particularly as mad people of color, we argue, cannot happen in knowledge production environments continuing to operate within assumptions and philosophies that privilege reason as well as white, Eurocentric thinking. We seek not to coproduce but to challenge and change thinking and support for psychosocial suffering in contexts local to people's lives.

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**\*Correspondence:** Diana Ross, d.ross@kcl.ac.uk

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH CARE: EXPLORING THE CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE**

This paper argues that co-production in mental health is likely impossible in privileged sites of knowledge production: the academy and the government considered not as a unified "state" but as an assemblage. This is particularly the case for people from racialized groups. The reasons for this are multiple but many bear on questions of power and privilege arising from Enlightenment ideas about science and knowledge as universal, rational and individual. Starting by looking at the antecedents of co-production, we argue that while these ideas are presented and processed as "objective" and "unbiased," they are steeped in Eurocentric notions about mad people and racialized people. Mental health is a special and exemplary case as it is the only "medical" specialty where

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# Problematise the inside

## Are we perpetuating injustice

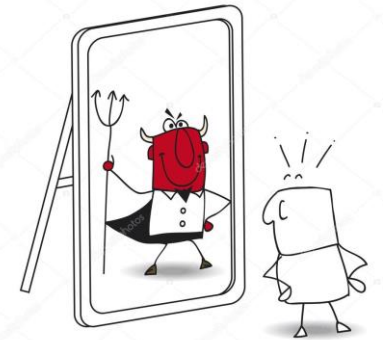
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**Critical reflexive standpoint that questions the traditional epistemology that underpinned mental health practice, research, education and policy**

- Frames distress as illness
- Privileges certain knowledge production and dissemination processes
- Perpetuates epistemic injustice though breaking link between distress and social justice issues

# Problematise how inclusion unfolds

- **Who do we co-produce with ??**
  - Mirror images of self- people that thing like us, self-pathologies, concur with the medical model, believe or not believe in medication,
  - Articulate/most able, white, global north view
- **How do we respond to resistance**
  - Institutional, knowledge, discipline and individual practices that silence discount, pathologize, ‘strategically selecting’, underestimate
- **Question is persons voice being appropriated by**
  - agencies/disciplines to give legitimacy to their decision making process or as a mechanism for researchers to increase access to funding without changing anything
    - as a cover for unpopular decisions or that leave policy decisions that perpetuate inequalities unquestioned



‘Hold our current sources and forms of knowledge about mental distress with tentative fingers’





**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Co-production in policy, practice research and  
education: ripples or ravines

**Professor Agnes Higgins**

**Thank You**

[ahiggins@tcd.ie](mailto:ahiggins@tcd.ie)

