Elders’ Experiences of Being in a Residential care setting:

Finding meaning through occupational engagement

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Overview of Presentation:

- Why study the Being of being in a residential care setting?
- The research question
- Philosophical underpinnings
- Research methods
- Themes – ‘Being Me’
- Lived Time
- Implications for professional practice
Why this study?

“A calling to conscious awareness those taken for granted ideas and practices within one’s own personal world and then to reach beyond them toward a more reasonable and then to reach beyond them toward a more reasonable and mutually respectful dialogue between those who wish to live in places and those who wish to plan for them” (Buttimer, 1980, p.187)
The Research Question:

How do elders’ experience being in a residential care setting?
Philosophical Underpinnings:

- Interpretive phenomenology
- Guided by the philosophies of Martin Heidegger
Research Methods:

- Ethical approval
- Purposive recruitment
- Older adults aged 85+
- Residents have the ability to make decisions regarding their daily activities
Text Collection:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Everyday experiences of being in the facility
Text Analysis:

- Conversations were recorded and transcribed
- 'Hermeneutic circle' method of analysis used for interpretation of text
- Phenomenological reflection to uncover the being of being in a residential care facility
Themes:

- Being Cared For
- Being Part of a Shared Community
- Being Me
van Manen’s Four Existential Categories:

- Lived Body (corporeality)
- Lived Space (spatiality)
- Lived Time (temporality)
- Lived Other (relationality or communality)
Felicity:
Frank:
Lived Other:

- Lived human relation is a corporeal experience of the way we interact with others within the space we inhabit together (van Manen, 1997).

- ‘Joining with’ other people

- ‘Drawing back’ from other people
Peter:
Iris:
Lived time:

- Lived time is a subjective feeling to our temporal way of being in the world. It encompasses the temporal dimensions of past, present and future, all of which form our personal history (van Manen, 2001).

- Time was experienced as timelessness
Implications for Professional Practice:

- Identity is expressed through **meaningful occupations**
- Understanding the life contexts of residents
- Health professionals to leave pre-understandings at the door
- Learn from the residents how they respond to the setting
Closing Thought:

- The meaning of being in a residential care setting shows that an opportunity to ‘be’ who one is matters
References


Smythe, L., & Giddings, L. (2007). From experiencing to definition: Addressing the question of 'what is qualitative research?' *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, 23(1), 37-56.
