University of Huddersfield Repository

Spilsbury, Hilary and Kirshbaum, Marilyn

Casting light into dark corners: Can social constructivism illuminate the experience of the older service user?

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/10720/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
CASTING LIGHT INTO DARK CORNERS

Presenter: Hilary Spilsbury, Senior Lecturer, University of Huddersfield. h.spilsbury@hud.ac.uk

Discussant: Dr. Marilyn Kirshbaum, Reader in Nursing and Research Leader for Health & Rehabilitation, University.
Social Constructivism

“An ontological position that asserts that social phenomena and their meanings are continually being accomplished by social actors” (Bryman 2008, p692)

Social constructivism suggests that human experience, including perception, is mediated historically, culturally and linguistically. (Willig 2001)

Eg, the glass half full......
Social Constructivism

- Hear the voice of older people in domiciliary care
- Beliefs and values
- Perceptions
- Roles
- Social Context of home
- Power relationships
- Positive care behaviours

Aim is to understand how people make sense of the world and their experience of care giving
Area of concern

- Nature of Reality
- Relationship of the knower to the known
- Possibility of generalisation
- Possibility of causal links
- The role of values

Constructivist Principle

- Multiple social realities exist
- Interaction of the researcher & participant creates knowledge
- Concept of generalisation is replaced with the notion of tentative application to other similar settings
- ?separate cause from effect?
- Values permeate constructivist research