

THE 'PATIENT' PERSPECTIVE ON PHYSIOTHERAPY: THE ROLE OF CRITICALITY

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BACKGROUND

- DOB – 18-3-82 age 34
- Sustained TBI April 2003
- Fell c. 30 ft into concrete car park
- Main injury was to brain stem

BACKGROUND

- 2004-2007 ‘informal rehabilitation’
- 2007-2010 BSc Health and Social Care Studies
- 2010-2011 MSc Social Research
- 2011-2014 PhD ‘Navigating the complexities of Acquired Brain Injury: Theorising everyday experiences of brain injury survivors’. Qualitative

- Physio student – Physio ‘patient’ - Researcher

MY RESEARCH

- Semi structured interviews *2 participants (n=6)
- Charity for brain injury survivors where I volunteered for 2 years.
- Insights of participants combined with personal experiences of ABI an rehabilitation.
- Social scientific/interdisciplinary approach

SOCIAL SCIENCE!!!

- Social science is concerned with stepping back, being reflexive and ‘thinking otherwise’ (Gibson 2006)
- ‘Unless clinicians are exposed to rigorous research from alternative paradigms and are taught to seek, critique and produce research from a variety of paradigms... evidence will be incomplete and the client will never be fully at the centre of practice’ (Plack 2005: 242).
- Social scientific approaches question taken-for-granted ‘truths’

FINDINGS - INTERDEPENDENCE

- Replace dependence and independence with INTERDEPENDENCE
- Reciprocity
- Contemporary life



INTERDEPENDENCE

- ‘I had to learn things that kids learn in primary school I had to learn in my 20’s... Well also my family used to come and see me a lot... [Them] coming in made a massive difference really... My family used to visit every day, that was a big thing... my family used to play Boggle and stuff like that, mind games, because of my, I had memory problems so we played lots of memory games’ (Sam)

FINDINGS – THE FUTURE

- Is rehabilitation bound by time and space?
- Is there an end point to rehabilitation?



FINDINGS – THE FUTURE

- ‘I think rehabilitation [after ABI] is about learning a new normal...You never ever recover from a brain injury, you learn new ways of doing things, because there’ll always be things that bite you...that’s just part of a critical illness, you just learn a new way, you have a new normal, but you have to learn what that new normal is’. (Karl)

FINALLY...

- Harvey, J (2017) 'Acquired Brain injury and rehabilitation' Oxon, Routledge.

