The enabling factors contributing to homeless people’s transition into sustained employment: a narrative inquiry

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction: A brief history of homelessness in SA
- Rationale and Research Question
- Methodology: A Narrative Inquiry
- Findings: Working through Life
- Discussion: An Occupational Transition
- Conclusion, Limitations and Recommendations
- Note of Thanks
- References
A Brief History of Homelessness in SA

A consequence of relocation to ‘homelands’, forced labour and forced removals.
With people flocking to cities in search of a livelihood despite a lack of adequate infrastructure
A loss of access to livelihoods, community and security
Rationale & Research Question

**Problem Statement:**
- One of the most marginalised and occupational deprived group of society.
- Identities shaped by illness, substance abuse and social exclusion.

**Relevance to Occupational Therapy?**
- Occupation inherently linked to individual and population health & wellbeing
- Work can positively influence mental health, social inclusion, personal identity.

**Research Question:**
“What are the enabling factors that contribute to homeless people attaining and sustaining open labour market employment for 6 months or more?”
Methodology: A Narrative Inquiry

- Research Site: U-Turn Homeless Ministries
- Inclusion Criteria: 
  1. Previously homeless, 
  2. Currently employed, 
  3. Completion of the U-turn Rehab Programme
- Research Design: Narrative Inquiry Design
- Data Collection: Open-ended, semi-structured Interviews
  
  "How did you get to where you are now?"
- Data Analysis: Thematic Data Analysis

Diagram:

- Temporality
- Sociality
- Place
## Findings

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<th>Working Through Life</th>
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<td><strong>Trying to Stay Afloat</strong></td>
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<td>“...when I looked at my circumstances and where I’ve come from, those are the aspects that contributed to me doing something about it now.” (Sarah)</td>
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Facilitators of an Occupational Transition

- Successful occupational transitions require occupational adaption

Reflecting on previous occupational participation to increase readiness for an anticipated transition

Continuity between past and present forms of occupational participation

Institutional and social support systems

Satisfaction with one’s new occupational identity following a goodness of occupational fit
A goodness of occupational fit together with institutional supports can play a role in the facilitating homeless peoples’ occupational transition into employment.

However, more research is needed to inform OT-based interventions.

Narrative inquiry is a means to unlocking facilitators of this complex transition.

A critical narrative inquiry approach (Rudman & Aldrich, 2017) is recommended to further examine the socially and politically situated nature of homeless narratives.
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7. References:

References cont…