



University of Essex

Propagating Justice:

Using participatory action research in a
community food growing setting to
identify risks of exclusion in seldom-
heard populations

Dr Simone Coetzee

Dr EA McKay, Dr W Bryant, Dr L Nicholls

#WFOT18



University of Essex



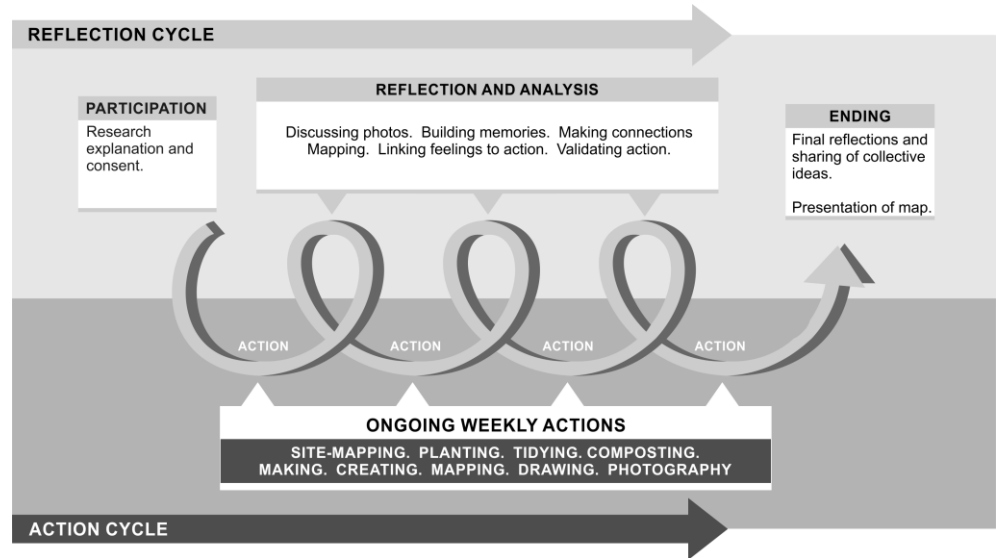
Background

- Context
 - The garden
 - The research
 - The co-researchers
 - The occupation – choice and opportunity

“At least we had the chance to try it...” Leo

Participatory Action Research

- Highlighted exclusion within inclusion
- Gave voice to the 'little things' that push people to the margins
- Demonstrated the importance of choice in practice



A dignified life

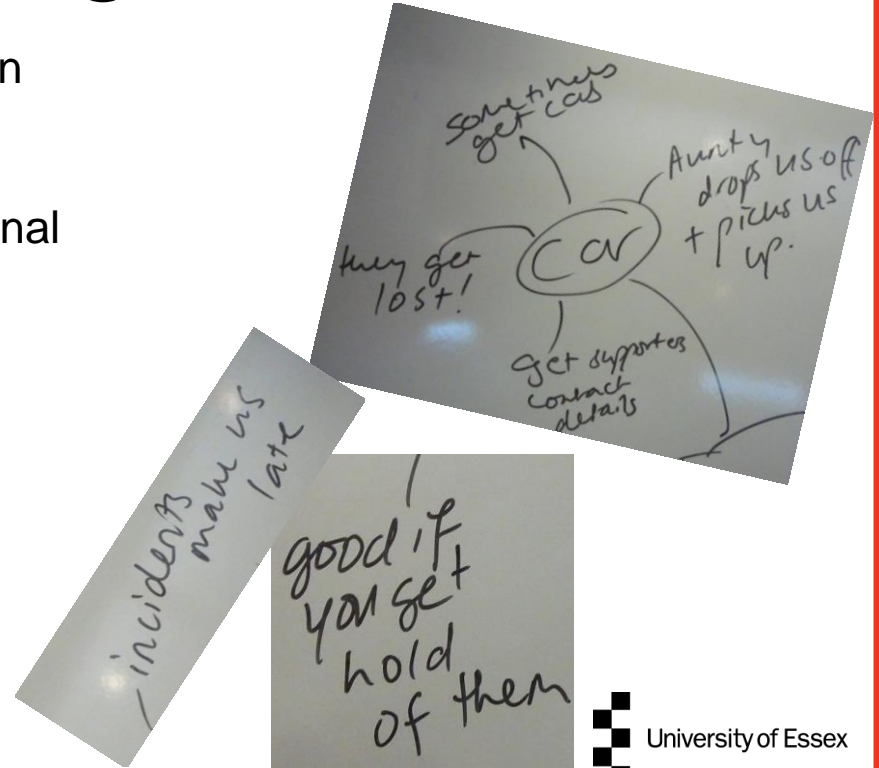
- A good and dignified life involves opportunities for action and social change (Nussbaum, 2006, Johnson et al, 2010)
- **Value and quality** of choice important, rather than range of opportunity (Sen 2009)
- Focus on reducing barriers to opportunity and preventing **occupational marginalisation**



Occupational Marginalisation

Occupational marginalisation – a state in which people are unable to participate in decision-making relating to their occupational participation (Stadnyk et al, 2011)

- How can we prevent this state of marginalisation?
- Are there warning signs?



Occupational Exclusion

Key characteristics:

- Perceived or real lack of representation in an important area of an individual's life
- Little or no acknowledgement through monetary or other significant means for occupation supporting a cause or organisation
- Tokenistic or no consideration of personal capacity to engage in and make choices related to an occupation meaningful to a person

Occupational Exclusion

- Making decisions on another's behalf that changes, grades or restricts an occupation due to a person's known ability or for the benefit of another entity
- If perpetuated, can lead to occupational marginalisation or eventual deprivation



Conclusion

- Managing occupational exclusion:
 - Have a clear understanding of needs of the group/individual
 - Regularly re-evaluate the needs and circumstances they are in
 - Identify the ‘little things’ that present barriers to occupation
 - Identify and prevent ‘tokenistic behaviour’



Contact details

- scoetzee@essex.ac.uk
- @SimoneZA

References

Coetzee, S. (2016) '*Connecting people and the earth*': *the occupational experience of people with different capabilities participating in an inclusive horticultural social enterprise*. Brunel University London.

Johnson, C. W. and Parry, D. C. (2015) 'Contextualising Qualitative Research for Social Justice', in Johnson, C. W. and Parry, D. C. (eds) *Fostering Social Justice through Qualitative Inquiry*. California: Left Coast Press Inc., pp. 11–22.

Johnson, K., Walmsley, J. and Wolfe, M. (2010) *People with Intellectual Disabilities: Towards a good life?* Bristol, UK: The Policy Press.

Nussbaum, M. (2006) *Frontiers of Justice; Disability, nationalit, species membership*. Cambridge, Massachusetts London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Sen, A. (2009) *The Idea of Justice*. London: Penguin Books.

Stadnyk, R. L., Townsend, E. A. and Wilcock, A. A. (2011) 'Occupational Justice', in Christiansen, C. H. and Townsend, E. A. (eds) *Introduction to Occupation: The Art and Science of Living*. Second. Pearson Prentice Hall, pp. 329–358.