



A critique of drawing as a research method for data generation in Qualitative Inquiry

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Background and aim of research, including methodology

Describe the method

Some examples

Reasons for using drawing

Some of the issues



Aim

- to explore the role and experience of social workers as AMHPs
- to examine the impact of professional background on role fulfilment
- to consider any emotional aspects in undertaking the AMHP role, from each research participant's perspective

Methodology IPA



Phenomenology

- or, the focus on the lived experience
- to explore the experience of the Approved Mental Health Professional

Hermeneutics

- or, the meaning and significance for the person and how this is interpreted
- to explore what it means from their perspective

Idiography

- or, the concern with the particular
- focus on the particular designation of the Approved Mental Health Professional and analyses data in detail



Emotional aspects are the focus of today's talk along with the use of drawing as a tool to elicit data



Method

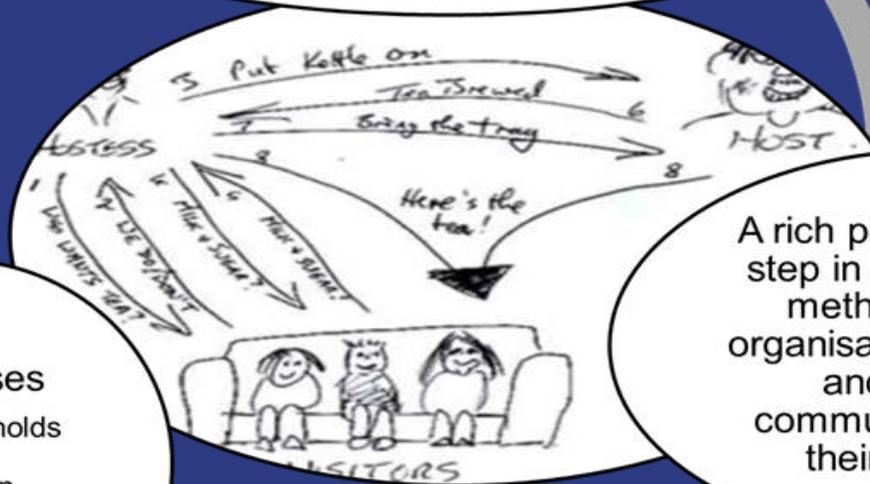
Semi-structured interviews including the drawing and description of a Rich Picture

Specifically, the Rich Picture was used to depict their experience of undertaking the AMHP role



What is a Rich Picture?

Developed in the early 1980s as part of a Soft Systems Methodology for gathering information

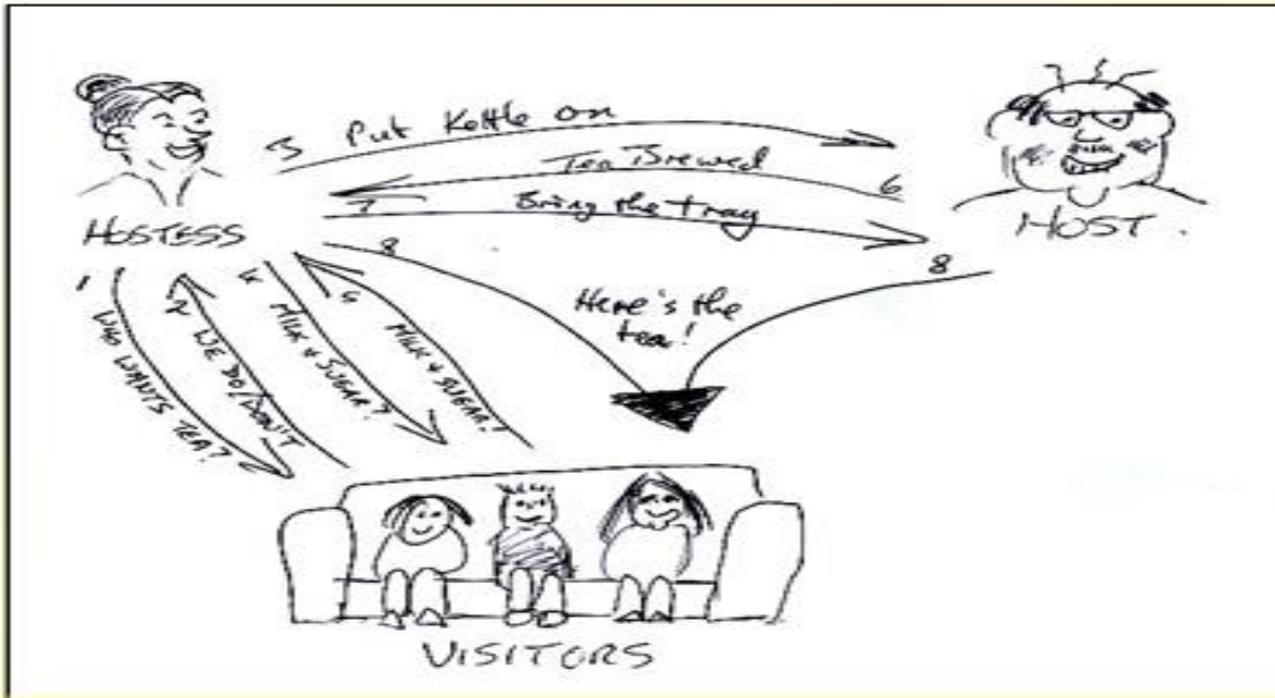


Two purposes

- **Evoke** a no holds barred representation
- **Record** this representation

A rich picture is the first step in a diagramming method to portray organisational structures and to enable communication about their complexity

Rich Pictures



1. Hostess asks who would like a cup of tea
2. Visitors signify whether they want a cup
3. Host is sent to put kettle on
4. Hostess gathers information on preferences for sugar and milk
5. Hostess gets sugar and milk ready
6. Host brews and pours tea
7. Hostess puts mugs on tray
8. Host carries tray back to visitors and hands out mugs

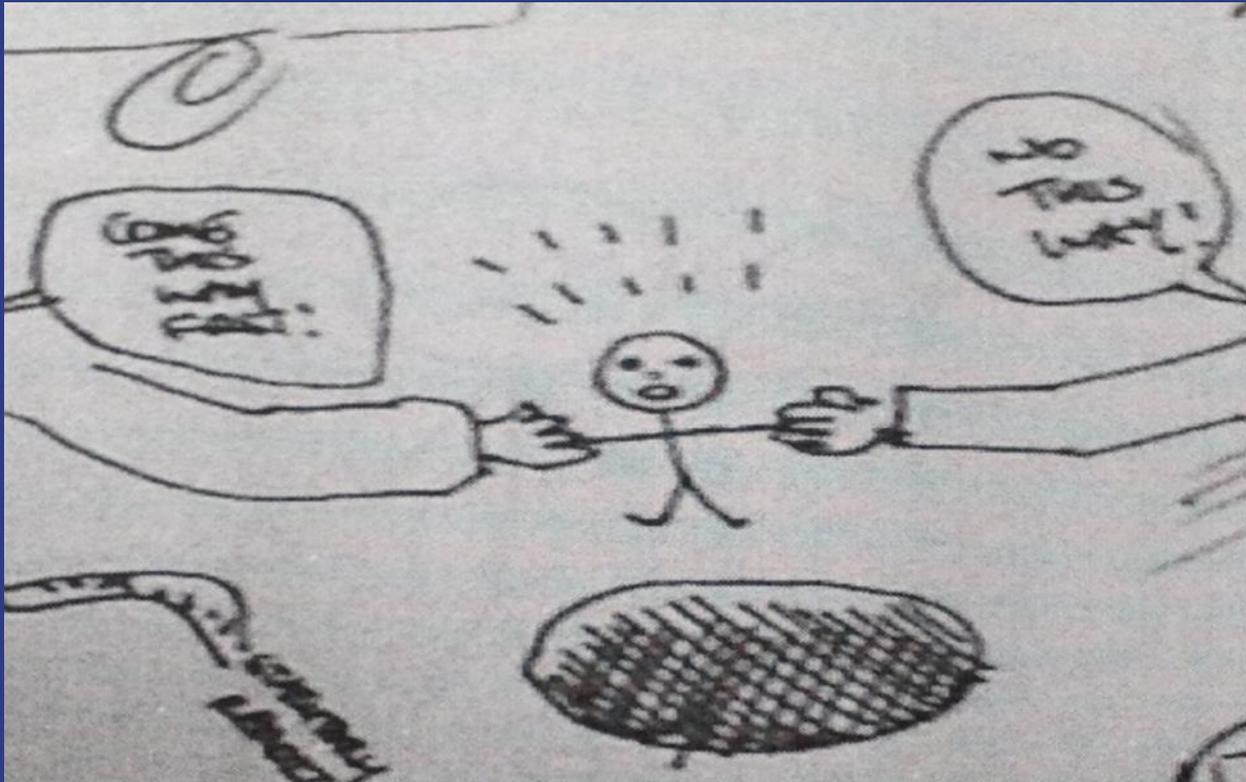


And what does it do?

Two purposes:

Evokes a no holds barred representation

Records this representation





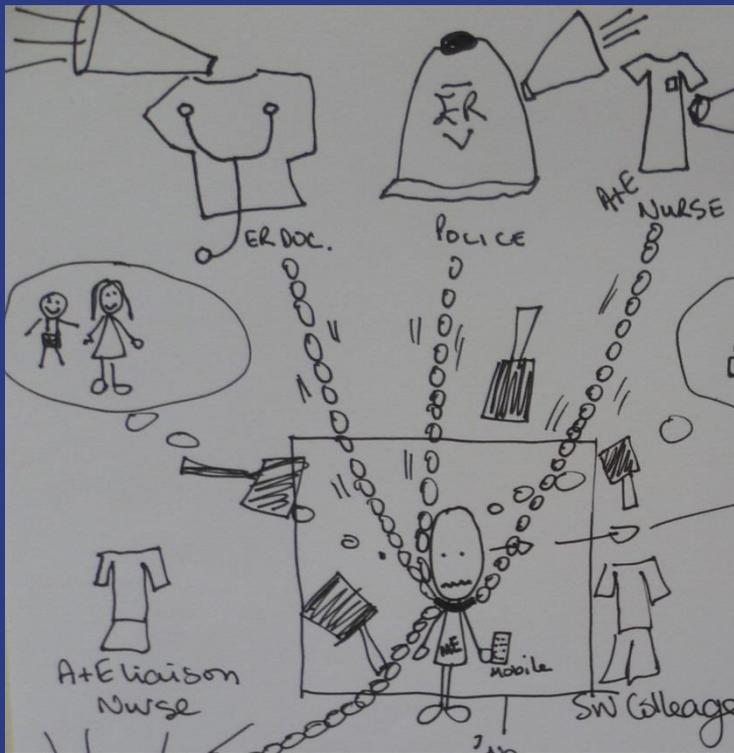
Not the picture alone

Without explanation, one person's picture is often a mystery to another observer

It is not meant to be a work of art but a working tool to assist in understanding



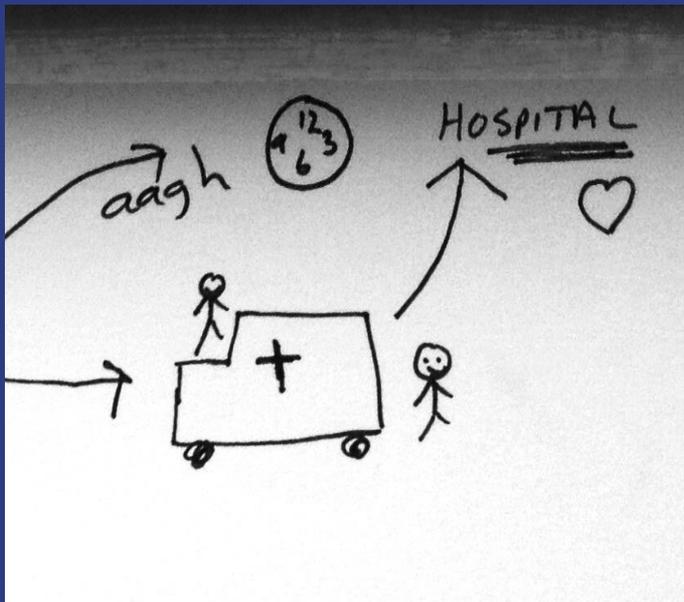
“yanking my chain”



I really felt on Wednesday that I was somebody else's bitch. That is not a great way to describe it but I just felt like there were all these people yanking my chain and I was there to do a job but I was being stopped from doing that because all of these other people wanted a piece of me and wanted their views known and their needs met and their targets. (Social Worker 3)



But, also positive emotions - satisfaction



While the picture also contains illustrations of her frustration here in having to wait for an ambulance, she described the heart in her picture as meaning a best outcome for person and their family. She felt she had done a good job and that a hospital admission was needed in order to provide the appropriate treatment. (nurse 5)



Drawing: a tool to elicit data?

The use of the qualitative approach (IPA) fits well with exploring the experiential and I suggest along with drawing can be more actively to elicit (and illustrate)



Image based research

Has its roots in social sciences especially social anthropology and sociology

Increasingly recognised and being used as a research method in qualitative research

Are some examples of use in health care research and increasingly in social work research



Are there particular issues to consider?



Participants



Will they
engage?

Reluctance to 'draw' perhaps viewed as childlike



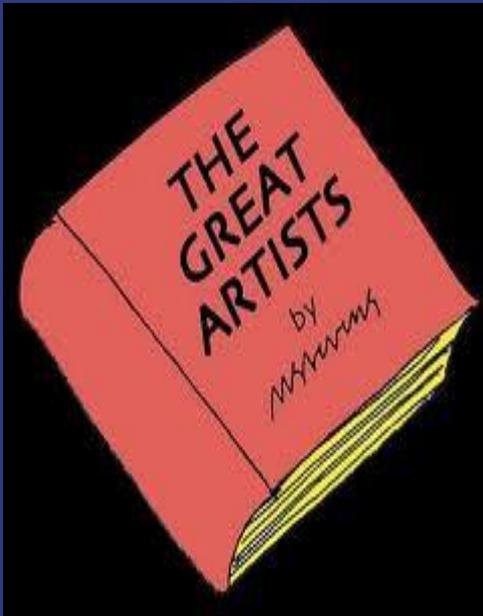


Perhaps they will be embarrassed!





Valid?



Will the rich picture accurately depict – perhaps too much ‘artistic pleasure’ (Prosser 2000)

Or artistic pain?





Will it be ethical?

Informed consent

Each participant was given an information sheet to include a description and example of a Rich picture

Each was aware of the purpose of the research



Ethical Issues continued

Anonymity

Collected and stored in line with policy and protocol

All reference to identifiable data is anonymous



Other Issues

Legal: who 'owns' the image?

Moral: what if the image depicts an illegal, immoral or professionally unacceptable act?

Is the use of drawing just a pleasant distraction?





In effect these issues all echo the debates about qualitative methods in general



So why do this?

Rich pictures will provide a succinct presentation

Integrated approach will give me a new perspective

It will also provide a more participatory perspective and help create a 'dialogue dimension' (Humphries 2008:27)



Why use image based research?

an opportunity to reach levels and forms of knowledge not immediately apprehensible to the researcher through other methods
(Edgar 1999:207)

creates a generative space for looking and then looking anew'
(Mitchell 2011: xiii)



and...

The cognitive process required to draw leads to a more succinct presentation of the key elements of participants' experiences (Kearney and Hyle 2004:376)

Use of both visual and word based research methods ..offers a way of exploring both the multiplicity and complexity that is the base of much social research interested in human experience (Guillemin 2004:273)

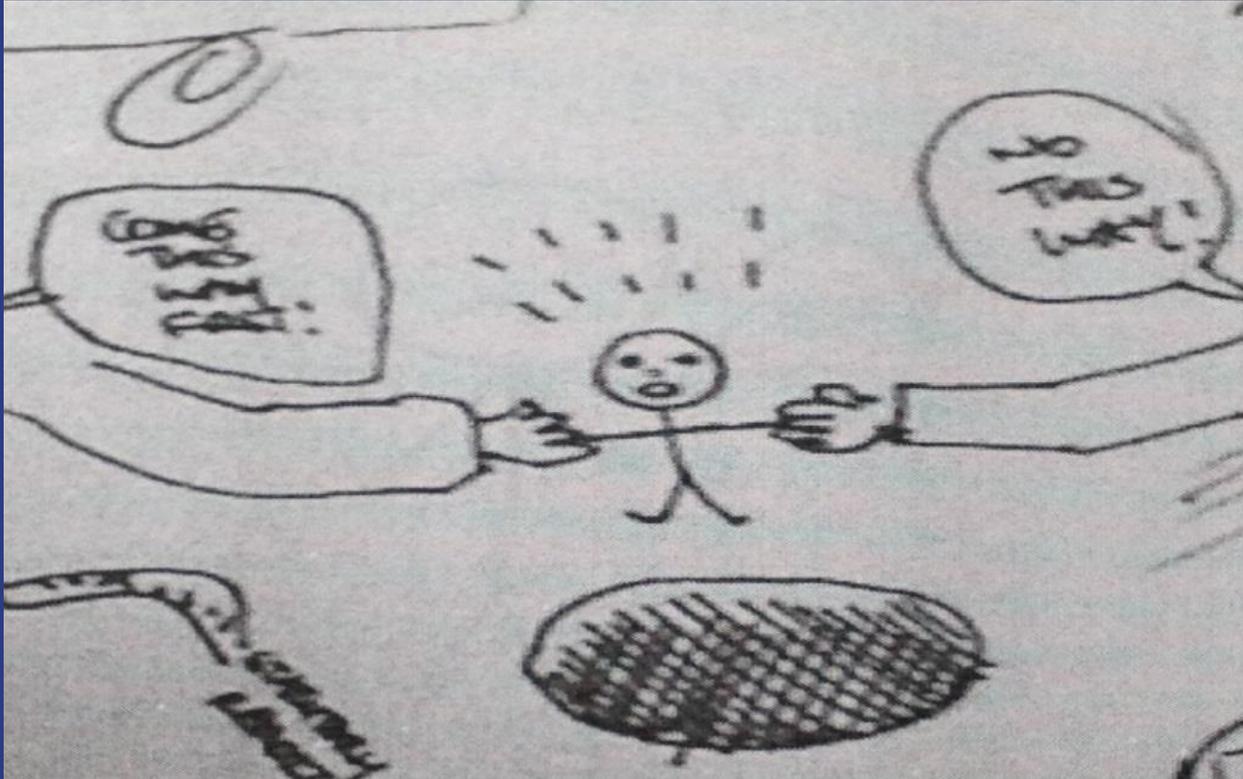


Thesis : “pull”; the active use of
dissonance



In reflecting on their role, these seemingly contrasting emotions co-exist for participants who also use them to control their AMHP practice as they ‘stand back’, or ‘hover over’.

The use of contrasting and sometimes conflicting emotion by the individual is a way of allowing not being in control but also, simultaneously, using their presence to be in control.



I think it was the bit about yeah actually being pulled in every direction is hard but actually sometimes not being pulled in any direction you can't you can't escape you kind of you have to let yourself be pulled in a way which is why I put the hole in it because you kind of you can't run away from it



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Questions
Comments?

