Grounded Theory Methods for Insights into Resilience Processes: The Case of a Young Person Transitioning out of Residential Care

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Argument

- Research design shapes research findings
- Traditional qualitative methods (phenomenology, thematic analysis) tend to generate essentialised insights into resilience:
  - Resilience as trait > resilience as process
  - Resilience as personal > resilience as interactional
- Grounded theory is a useful research design:
  1. Actions of agents
  2. In interaction with their social environment
  3. Generation of theory

Background

- Resilience defined (Van Breda, in press):
  - The multilevel processes that systems engage in to obtain better-than-expected outcomes in the face or wake of adversity.
- Systematic search of South African journal publications from 2009-2016, focused on humans, with the term 'resilien*' in the article
- 729 articles met selection criteria
- Only 18 (2.5%) mentioned Grounded Theory as the research design

Grounded Theory

Kathy Charmaz (2012)

- "Grounded theory is a systematic method of analysing and collecting data to develop middle-range theories.
- This method begins but does not end with inductive inquiry.
- It is a comparative, iterative, and interactive method.
- The emphasis in grounded theory is on analysis of data; however, early data analysis informs data collection.
- Most grounded theorists follow an iterative approach, many make comparisons, few construct theory."

Grounded Theory Methods

- Inductive ("theoretical agnosticism")
- Symbolic interactionism
  - Agency, interaction, micro-macro
- Line-by-line coding with gerunds (~ing verbs)
- Iterative data collection and analysis
- Theoretical sampling
- Constant comparison
- Memo writing
- Social constructionist (Charmaz, 2006)
- Explanatory theory construction
Transcript Excerpt

A 22-year-old care-leaver (‘Andre’)

My parents kicked me out of the house. They bought me a scooter and everything – a brand new scooter. I didn’t have a license, I failed my learner’s license three times, so me and studying isn’t very good friends. If I can work with my hands and see what it does and be in the physical area where I can work and hands on, then I’m happy. I mean if somebody can tell me listen here, if you can do that and that and that, do this way then I’ll do it – that’s no problem. Then I got the scooter and everything and I started bunking… then I got into drugs and everything. Okay, the drugs that I did was basically everything on the street that you can use, except spiking, I didn’t do that, because spiking is… you know, it messes up your life and everything. I had a few friends that used to spike and everything, but ja, it’s not good, plus money as well. If you don’t have money you can’t get the drugs, then you are sitting there and it’s like, hell man I need some drugs and everything. So...
Theory construction

AGENCY

INTERACTION

Conclusion

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Partners

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