

Institutional Ethnography in Health Systems Research

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Overview

- Using qualitative methods for health research
- Background of Institutional Ethnography
- How can health researchers use Institutional Ethnography
- Application
- Future Directions

Why use qualitative methods for health research?

- ✓ Understanding phenomena
- ✓ Meaning construction
- ✓ Less about measuring and predicting outcomes
- ✓ Example

What is Institutional Ethnography?

- “Sociology for women”
- A way to explain and understand experiences
- Ruling relations
- Social context for everyday life

How can Institutional Ethnography be used in health research?

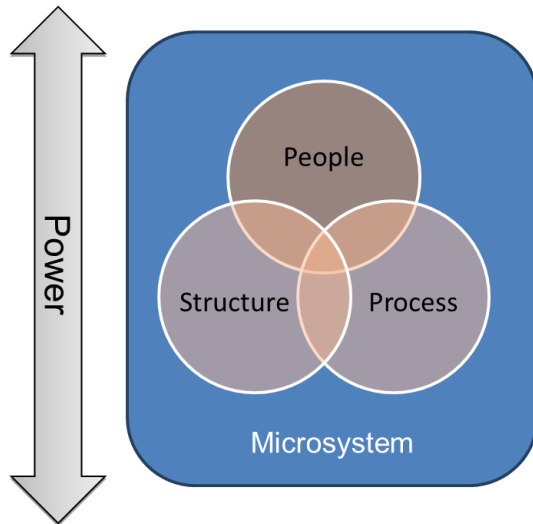
- ✓ Institutional effects that impact the social context that people experience their “everyday life.”
- ✓ Devault & McCoy (2012)- knowledge informants
- ✓ Mothers with children in the NICU
- ✓ Transfers of care

Institutional Ethnography in Transitions of Care

- Interprofessional collaboration as a catalyst to creating effective and efficient transitions of care (ToC)
- Fragmented ToC communication between HCPs → stressful/unfavourable discharge
- Inclusion of patient family → family members “not ready”

Explorations of the maternal experience in a NICU

How does the NICU microsystem influence mothers' experiences?



“The intent is to bring forward voices and experiences from the margins, with a view toward offering rich material for reflection and identifying topics for future research” (McCoy, 2005, pg.792).

Institutional ethnography goes beyond understanding the experience of an individual and goes deeper into how systems influence behaviours, experiences and perceptions.

Thank you!

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