JOGGING MEMORIES: OVERCOMING THE EXCLUSION OF VULNERABLE FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

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NON TRADITIONAL DATA COLLECTION METHODS

• The Walking Interview
  • Provides opportunities for exploration of a participant’s connections to their social environment
  • Walking alongside a participant allows the interviewer to observe connections with the community that cannot be easily described in a traditional interview

• Photo elicitation
  • The use of photos to help elicit conversation by giving a focus

• Why use alternative methods?
  • To help overcome difficulties with spontaneous verbal communication
  • Ensuring inclusive research occurs with vulnerable populations
WALKING INTERVIEWS

- Is regarded as a method within a newly developing mobility paradigm and is increasingly being used by geographers, social scientists and health researchers
- The interviewer walks alongside the participant and it is used to explore the links between self and place
- Object probes such as photos can be used to help elicit richer data
- Three broad types of walking interviews
  - Go-alongs
  - Participatory (interview/design)
  - Bimbling
GO-ALONGS

- A mix between an interview and participant observation
- Has been used to study health issues in the local environment
- Use to examine physical, social and mental dimensions of place
PARTICIPATORY WALKING INTERVIEW/DESIGN

• Aims to understand the participants sense of place and neighbourhood connection
• Routes are not considered representative of participants actual habits or routines
• Participants are in control, they choose the geographical area they would like to show the interviewer
BIMBLING

- Route is not necessarily known by either the participant or the interviewer
- Used in research exploring activism. When there was need to remove the participant away from the environment
- Regarded as the “talking while walking” interview
CHALLENGES – TO USING THESE METHODS

• Key gatekeepers were not familiar with these methods
  • Safety concerns for the participant, researcher and the community
• Often multiple approval points were required before the research can proceed
• Need to elevate all concerns before access will be granted
INSIGHTS – WAYS OF OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

• Start consultation early
• The clinical team was involved in specific points
• Specifics were addressed regarding the walking interview and using the camera
• I used literature to support a number of my proposed data collection methods
  • Use of non traditional qualitative data collection methods being beneficial with those living with chronic mental illness
  • Walking interviews with the use of a camera had already been used with participants living with paranoid schizophrenia and personality disorder
• Obtaining final ethics approval aided in getting signoff with the divisional research committee


REFERENCES


