"Discovering who I am- Exploring the Optimal Conditions for Positive Identity Formation in Residential Child Care


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Discovering Who I am- Exploring the Optimal Conditions for Identity Formation in Residential Child Care

Gerry Marshall- Queen’s University Belfast
EUSARF Conference- Porto
3 October 2018
An initial thought

You drained me of my identity and injected self doubt into my veins
Left me questioning my own sanity
Walking around aimlessly
At war with my own body every day
Trying to scrub your heavy words off my skin
My mental state has been shaken to its core
I don't know who I am anymore

e.s.
Identity formation

• My PhD research - children’s homes and quality care with reference to identity formation


• Identity formation is an inter-subjective process - relationships with other people are critical to how I see myself and how I value myself

• Primary psychological task of adolescence


• One notable exception (Levy, 1993).
HONNETH- RECOGNITION THEORY

Identity Formation

- Experience of human rights
  Self -Respect

- Experience of love/care
  Self Confidence

- Experience of participation and belonging
  Self -Esteem

- 1 core theme: systemic congruence in the service of the best interests of children
- 3 psycho-social processes:
  - Pain based – behaviour
  - Extra familial living environment
  - Sense of normality

- 11 interactional dynamics as a means by which to evaluate the quality of care
ANGLIN/HONNETHE MAPPING EXERCISE (1)

Anglin
Struggle for congruence

Incongruence (in care provision)

Misrecognition (of self-worth)

Honneth
Struggle for recognition

Inhibited identity formation
## ANGLIN/HONNETH MAPPING EXERCISE(2)

### 11 interactional dynamics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anglin</th>
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<th>Houston</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recognition through love, care and stability</td>
<td>Recognition through rights and justice and legal/social/moral entitlements</td>
<td>Recognition through participation and belonging in the community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-confidence</td>
<td>Self-respect</td>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening and responding with respect</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Self-belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating a framework for understanding</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Building rapport and relationship</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Establishing structure routine and expectations</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspiring commitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra familial living environment</td>
<td>Listening and responding with respect</td>
<td>Providing resources Extra familial living environment Sense of normality</td>
<td>Sense of normality Challenging thinking and action Sharing power and decision making Anti-oppressive practice Power in institutions adult centered care Extra familial living environment</td>
</tr>
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REFERENCES


