

«Of diverse voices
sweet music is made»

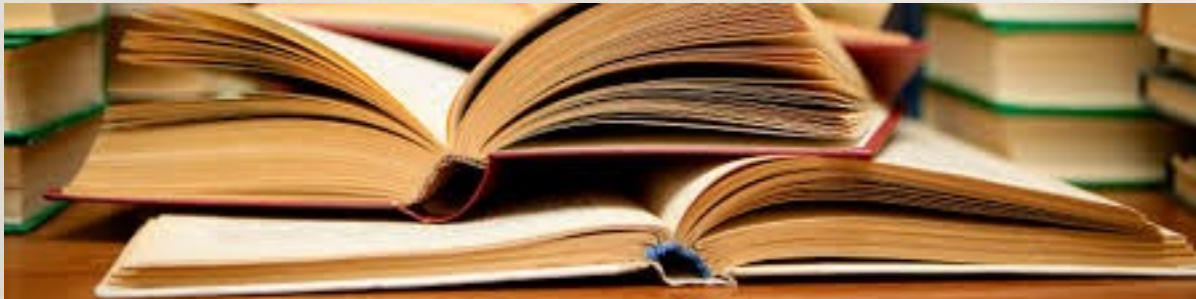
PhD og Cand. psychol Marius Veseth
Førsteamanuensis Høgskolen i Bergen

Hva er alternativet til
førstepersonsperspektivet i
psykisk helse – og er det noe
bedre?

Noen erfaringer og refleksjoner
rundt brukermedvirkning i
forskning

Agenda

- * Presentere utviklingen og gjennomføringen av et PhD-prosjekt der personer med førstehåndskunnskap om fenomenene som utforskes aktivt har tatt del i forskningsprosessen
- * Illustrere noen sentrale funn fra studiene
- * Diskutere og drøfte medforskning / samarbeidsbasert forskning / brukermedvirkning i forskning (stryk det som ikke passer) innenfor psykisk helsefeltet i lys av prosjektet



Spør igjen

Tallrekken ler av oss
og vil forklare alt.
Den har kjever av jern og tenner
som det klirrer i.

Vi spør og vi spør
og tallene svarer
men ikke om fiolinene
eller om lykken mellom to armer.

Da hoster det på skjermen
- uklart spørsmål.

Spør igjen.

(Rolf Jacobsen: Nattåpent, Gyldendal 1985)

«Today I wanted to die. Everything was hurting. My body was screaming. I saw the doctor. I wanted to collapse against the wall and cry out and show him how I feel about things but I said nothing. Now I feel terrible. Nothing seems good and nothing good seems possible. I am stuck in this twilight mood where I go down like the setting sun into a lonely black hole where there is room for only one.

Flat. Lacking in motivation, sleep and appetite good. Discussed aetiology. Cont. LiCarb 250 mg qid. Levels next time.»

(O'Hagan, 1996)

Bakgrunn for prosjektet

- * Bipolare lidelser er tradisjonelt forstått innenfor et biomedisinsk paradigme
- * Det er imidlertid behov for tilnærminger som også fokuserer bredere enn det rådende rammeverket
- * Kvalitative studier kan bidra til å belyse nye sider av fenomener ved bipolar lidelse
- * Brukermedvirkning begrunnes fra flere perspektiver
 - * Politisk: føringer
 - * Etisk: rettigheter for deltakelse
 - * Vitenskapsteoretisk: forbedre forskningen

Forskergruppe

Et samarbeidsprosjekt mellom MoodNet (Regionalt forskningsnettverk for stemningslidelser i Helse Vest) og Gruppe for kvalitativ forskning på psykisk helse ved Det psykologiske fakultet (Universitetet i Bergen)

Marius Veseth, Per-Einar Binder, Marit Borg og Larry Davidson

Medforskergruppe

- * En gruppe personer med egenerfaring fra bedringsprosesser ved stemningslidelser ble rekruttert fra den største brukerorganisasjonen i Norge og de lokale helseforetak i Helse Vest
- * "Expert-by-experience group"
- * Mål: Samle personer som både har ønske om å ta del i forskning på psykisk helse og også har egenerfaring fra affektive lidelser og det å bli bedre
- * Opprinnelig 12 deltakere, en kjerne på 5 har tatt del gjennom hele prosjektet

Samarbeidsmøter

- * For å skape et godt arbeidsklima ble det arrangert samarbeidsmøter mellom forskere og medforskere
- * 18 møter arrangert fra november 2007 til mars 2012, hvert med en varighet på rundt 4-5 timer
- * Selv om noen falt fra og andre ble introdusert gjennom prosjektperioden har disse møtene fremstått som en viktig og trygg ramme for arbeidet
- * Målsetning om å utfordre den tradisjonelle ubalansen innenfor akademia: Flere medforskere enn forskere i samarbeidsmøtene

Samarbeidsmøter

- * Utvikling av prosjektet
- * Forarbeid til datainnsamling
- * Opplæring (forskerskole)
- * Dataanalyse



”Forskerskolen”

- * 5 dagers opplæring i vitenskapsteori og kvalitative metoder
- * Utviklet spesielt for medforskergruppen
- * Presentasjoner fra forskere med bred erfaring fra formidling og opplæring
- * Vekt på fenomenologi, hermeneutikk og refleksivitet
- * Mål: gjøre medforskerne i stand til å utforske hvordan egen forutforståelse påvirker møtet med data så vel som å kritisk utfordre og konfrontere forskernes perspektiv

Refleksivitet

"the process of continually reflecting upon our interpretations of both our experience and the phenomena being studied so as to move beyond the partiality of our previous understandings and our investment in particular research outcomes" ... "Reflexivity involves a positive evaluation of the researchers own experience in order to understand something of the fusion of horizons between subject and object. Our understanding of "other-ness" arises through a process of making ourselves more transparent" (Finlay, 2003, s. 108)

"the interpretation of interpretation" (Alvesson & Sköldberg, 2000, s. 9)

Personlig refleksivitet

- * Hva motiverer meg til å forske på dette?
- * Hvilke erfaringer har jeg med tema?
- * Hva er det med min erfaringsbakgrunn som kan være til hjelp for å forstå dette tema?
- * Hva er det med min erfaringsbakgrunn som kan gi utfordringer i forhold til å forstå dette tema?

Refleksivitet i relasjon og samarbeid

- * Hvordan kan min rolle påvirke samspillet med informantene? (eksempelvis å være ung psykolog og forske på erfarne terapeuter, å ha egenerfaring fra sykehusinnleggelse og forske på tvangsbruk)
- * Hvordan kan min klasse, etniske bakgrunn, kjønn og seksuelle legning spille inn i forhold til hvordan jeg forholder meg til informantene? (eksempelvis å ha fokus på at man har egenerfaring fra stemningslidelse vs å være mann)
- * Hvor lett har jeg for å ta inn den andres perspektiv her?
- * Viser jeg tilstrekkelig omsorg der de samtaler om noe vanskelig?
- * Kan informantene oppleve dette som trygt?
- * Våger jeg å utfordre deltakerne?

Politisk-ideologisk refleksivitet

- * Hvilken samfunnsmessig rolle har prosjektet mitt? Skal det endre noe? Skal det legitimere hvordan et system fungerer?
- * Har jeg (og deltakerne) oversikt over hvordan funn kan bli brukt i det politiske systemet?
- * Hvilke fortolkningsrammer ligger til grunn for selve forskningsspørsmålet mitt? Hvilken ideologisk mening kan grunnbegrepene mine ha? (eksempelvis "tilfredshet med tjenestetilbud", "brukermedvirkning", "terapeutisk effekt")

Studie 1

- * 13 deltakere / 7 kvinner og 6 menn
 - * Gjennomsnittsalder 47 år, fra 27 til 65 år
 - * Rapporterer både bipolar I og bipolar II
 - * Komorbide tilstander: angst, PTSD, psykose, ADHD
 - * Rapporterer å ha slitt med symptomer de siste 2 til 30 år, gjennomsnittlig 18 år
 - * Eksklusjonskriterier: ECT eller behandling på sengepost de siste 6 måneder, alkohol eller rus som hoveddiagnose
 - * 6 deltakere i arbeid (hel- og deltid), 7 på ulike trygdetiltak
 - * 8 i parforhold hvor de hadde barn (3 hadde utflyttede barn), 1 i parforhold uten barn, 3 enslige uten barn, 1 enslig med utflyttede barn
- * Individuelle dybdeintervju
 - * Lokalisasjon valgt av deltaker (hjem, lokal poliklinikk, universitetskontor)
 - * Fra 45 til 110 minutter lange, de fleste om lag 80 minutter

Studie 2

- * 12 deltakere / 7 menn og 5 kvinner
 - * 10 psykiatere og 2 psykologspesialister
 - * Gjennomsnittsalder 55 år (fra 46 til 68 år)
 - * I tillegg til spesialitet innenfor voksenpsykiatri eller klinisk voksenpsykologi hadde deltakerne også videreutdanning innenfor kognitiv terapi, psykodynamisk terapi, allmennmedisin, barnepsykiatri og forskning (doktorgrad)
 - * Gjennomsnittlig 27 års erfaring (fra 16 til 41 år)
 - * Privat praksis, offentlig poliklinikk og sengepost
- * Individuelle dybdeintervju
 - * På forhånd bedt om å tenke på to konkrete behandlingserfaringer de har hatt i arbeid med personer med bipolar lidelse – én der de følte de oppnådde bedring og én der de opplevde at de ikke lyktes
 - * Varighet fra 62 til 84 minutter (gjennomsnitt 68 minutter)

Metode for dataanalyse

- * Hermeneutisk-fenomenologisk tilnærming:
 1. Danning av helhetsinntrykk ved gjennomlesning av hele materialet
 2. Meningsenheter identifiseres gjennom nærlesning
 3. Koder for disse meningsenhetene utvikles
 4. Abstrahering og kondensering av kodene
 5. Utvikling av tema som overordnede beskrivelser

Ulike nivå / lag i prosjektet

- * To ulike beskrivelser av bedringsprosesser:
 - * personer som selv har opplevd vekst og positiv utvikling
 - * terapeuter som har jobbet sammen med personer mot bedring
- * To ulike perspektiver på materialet:
 - * Forskernes
 - * Medforskernes



Veseth, M., Binder, P. E., Borg, M., & Davidson, L. (2012). Toward caring for oneself in a life of intense ups and downs. A reflexive-collaborative exploration of recovery in bipolar disorder. *Qualitative Health Research*, 22, 119-133.

Veseth, M., Binder, P. E., Borg, M., & Davidson, L. (2013). How I found out I had a bipolar disorder: A reflexive-collaborative exploration of the process of identifying that one is struggling with a severe mental health problem. *Qualitative Studies*, 4, 21-38.

Veseth, M., Binder, P. E., Borg, M., & Davidson, L. (submitted). Experienced therapists' view of their patients' struggles and efforts when facing a bipolar disorder.

Recovery in bipolar disorder

A reflexive-collaborative exploration of the lived experiences of healing and growth when battling a severe mental illness

Marius Veseth

Dissertation for the degree of philosophiae doctor (PhD)
University of Bergen, Norway
2013



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



Ytterligere publikasjoner

Article

The role of work in recovery from bipolar disorders

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Abstract

Being in recovery from bipolar disorder involves work-related concerns. The specific aims of this study are to: 1) understand the role of work in recovery from bipolar disorders, and 2) understand how people with such disorders deal with work-related challenges. These topics are examined from the stance of the recovery process, in which work-related activities were explored. Semi-structured, qualitative interviews were conducted with persons who had experienced recovery from bipolar disorder. Analysis was performed through thematic and phenomenological analysis, with hermeneutic phenomenology and reflexive methodology as a framework. The findings are presented through the following themes: 1) many types of work – finding meaning and a focus; 2) helpful roles and contexts – to be much more than a person with an illness; 3) making work possible – the role of supportive relationships and supportive medications, and 4) the costs of working too much – finding a meaningful and healthy balance.

Keywords

mental health, qualitative secondary analysis, subjectivity, work



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Bedringsperspektiv på bipolare lidelser

av Marius Veseth



Dersom det fantes en knapp som kunne ha tatt vekk din bipolare lidelse – ville du da ha trykket på den? Jeg er ikke så sikker på at jeg ville ha gjort det ...

Stephen Fry, *The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive*,
oversatt av Marius Veseth

BIPOLARE LIDELSER

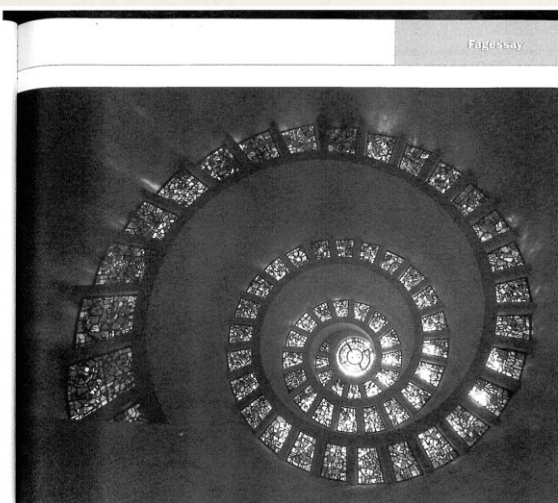
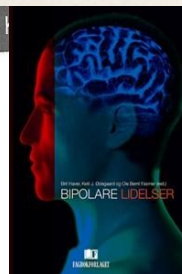


TRANSLASJON

Innledning

Bipolare lidelser er tradisjonelt forstått innenfor et biomedisinsk paradigme der genetiske og biologiske elementer ses som de viktigste årsaksfaktorene (Scott 2006). Fra dette ståstedet er lidelsene tendert mot å ha blitt beskrevet som en slags «hjernesykdom» – en genetisk bestemt forstyrrelse av sentralnervesystemets kjemi – der medikamentell behandling har vært sett som det viktigste svar på de utfordringer disse lidelsene bringer med seg (Bentall 2007). De senere år er det imidlertid vist at de fleste rapporterer at de ikke oppnår tilstrekkelig nytte av medikamentell behandling alene (Miklowitz og Scott 2009), og at psykologiske prosesser spiller en betydningsfull rolle i symptomene så vel som i det å bli bedre ved bipolare lidelser (Jones og Bentall 2006). Dette har skapt behov for også å utforske tilnærminger og forståelsesmodeller som fokuserer bredere enn det rådende biomedisinske rammeverket.

Jeg vil i dette kapittel gjøre rede for og drøfte positiv endring ved bipolare



Folk blir bedre

Hva vi kan lære av menneskers egne erfaringer med vekst og positiv utvikling ved alvorlige psykiske lidelser

Bedring handler om levde liv. Det handler om å finne måter å håndtere plager på innenfor gode og verdige hverdager, snarere enn om å nå hypotetiske ytre mål definert av fagpersoner i forskning og klinikk.

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Ytterligere publikasjoner

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informa
healthcare

RESEARCH PAPER

Negotiating the coresearcher mandate – service users' experiences of doing collaborative research on mental health

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Purpose: Traditionally, the voices of service users have been silent in research into mental health issues. A Norwegian research network, however, recognizes the importance of involving service users as coresearchers and initiated a training program in research methodology and design intended to empower them as active participants in research projects. In this article, we explore how these coresearchers with a mental health service user background experience their participation in projects as well as in attending the training. What is it like being a service user coresearcher in collaborative studies on issues in mental health? How do coresearchers negotiate their roles and mandate? **Method:** We used focus groups as our data collection method, transcribed the group discussions verbatim, and analyzed the transcriptions using qualitative methodology. We then took the preliminary analyses back to the participants

Implications for Rehabilitation

- Participatory research on issues in mental health holds potential for empowering service users.
- Collaborating with service users in research puts weight on the lived experiences of mental distress and on the expertise of the first person perspective.
- Organizing a formal training and peer group context in this kind of research can contribute to the service user coresearchers process of defining their own mandate in the research process as well as to help them constructively differentiate themselves from the roles of other researchers.

[2,4,5]. This represents a shift from traditional approaches in

1

Running head: Collaboration and reflexivity

Collaborating to stay open and aware: Service user involvement in mental health research as an aid in reflexivity

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How to Enhance the Quality of Mental Health Research: Service Users' Experiences of Their Potential Contributions Through Collaborative Methods

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The authors thank the group of MoodNet coresearchers for their participation in this study. We declare no conflicts of interest with respect to the authorship or publication of this article. The authors received funding for this study from Helse Førde and MoodNet. One important intervention explored in this study is coined "The Research School for Service User Coresearchers." This 5-day training program in qualitative methodology and theories of science was developed by experienced researchers from MoodNet in collaboration with faculty from the Group for Qualitative Research on Mental Health at

Ytterligere publikasjoner



TIDSSKRIFT FOR PSYKISK HELSEARBEID Vol. 8 • Nr. 1 • 2011 82 • © Universitetsforlaget

Denne spalten presenterer gode eksempler på ulike former for psykisk helsearbeid fra kommuner, institusjoner og/eller frivillige organisasjoner.

På skolebenken – i forskerskolen

Bengt Sundfør
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Innledning

Brukermedvirkning var et sentralt tema i Opptreppingsplanen for psykisk helse (St.prp.nr. 63, 1997–98). I denne sammenhengen har brukermedvirkning primært vært knyttet til klinisk praksis både i form av vektlegging av deltagelse både i eget behandlingsopplegg og i tjenesteutvikling. En naturlig videreføring av brukermedvirkningsperspektivet går nå inn i forskningsfeltet. Mennesker med brukererfaring ønsker å delta i forskning og kunnskapsutvikling. Vi ønsker å bidra til en mer «brukbar» forskning.

med psykiske problemer deltar i forskning i psykisk helsefeltet.

Jeg vil videre fortelle om noen eksempler på forskningsprosjekter med medforskning som jeg selv har vært med på. Jeg vil beskrive prosjektene og hvordan jeg selv har opplevd å være med på dette. Jeg vil også reflektere over hvilke muligheter og utfordringer det å inkludere brukere med i forskning kan se ut til å bringe med seg.

MoodNet – Regionalt forskningsnettverk for stemingslidelse
I Bergen i 2007 ble jeg invitert til å være med

Evalueringsrapport

Forskerskole for medforskere

Marit Svisdahl, spesialrådgiver Kreftforeningen
Christian Moltu, klinisk psykolog Helse Førde
Espen Sletvold, rådgiver Kreftforeningen

25.11.2010

"Toward caring for oneself" (2012)

Toward Caring for Oneself in a Life of Intense Ups and Downs: A Reflexive-Collaborative Exploration of Recovery in Bipolar Disorder

Marius Veseth,¹ Per-Einar Binder,¹ Marit Borg,²
and Larry Davidson³

Abstract

In this article, we discuss processes of recovery in bipolar disorder. We utilized a hermeneutical-phenomenological approach developed within a reflexive-collaborative framework to examine what individuals do to promote improvement and positive change in their own lives. The study was designed and carried out in collaboration with an expert-by-experience group of 12 coresearchers with firsthand experiences of mental distress and recovery. In-depth interviews were conducted with 13 participants who acknowledged having lived and dealt with a bipolar disorder. Four core themes were drawn from our analysis: (a) handling ambivalence about letting go of manic states; (b) finding something to hang on to when the world is spinning around; (c) becoming aware of signals from self and others; and (d) finding ways of caring for oneself. Interrelationships between the four themes, along with limitations, strengths, and implications of the study are discussed.

Keywords

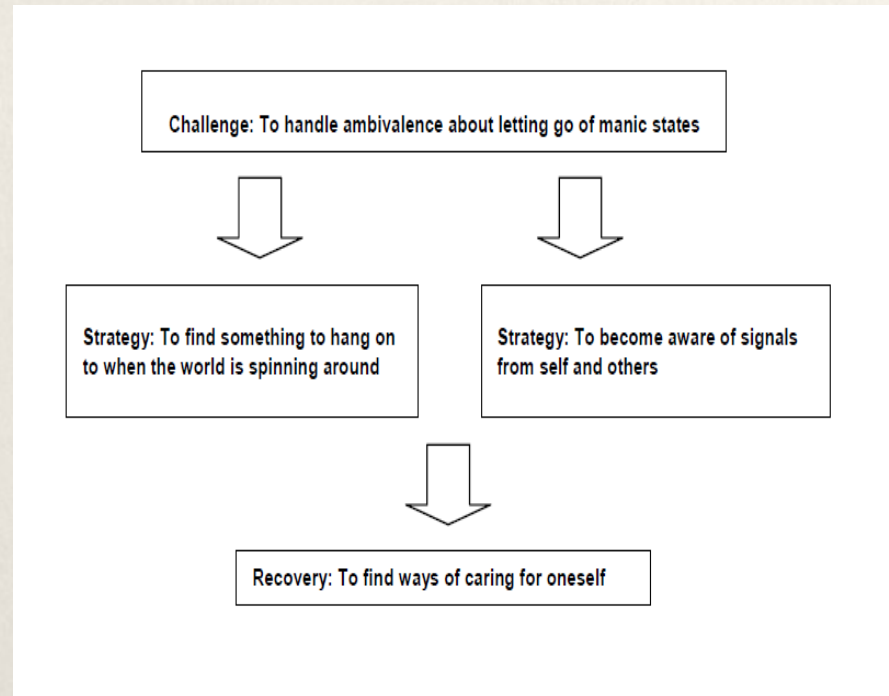
bipolar disorder; hermeneutics; phenomenology; recovery; reflexivity; research, collaborative

How do individuals with bipolar disorder experience their own efforts toward improvement and positive change? What challenges do they face in their processes of recovery? These are questions we approached in close collaboration with two distinct groups of service users: 13 participants who shared their experiences of recovery processes in semistructured, in-depth interviews, and a group

seen more frequently and tend to last longer. Furthermore, most suicides occur during the depressive periods (Thase, 2005).

Historically, bipolar disorders have been seen as genetically based biological conditions. This dominant understanding has largely dictated a view in which medication is seen as not just the primary but also the only

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SAGE



To become aware of signals

”Nei, det er sånn at jeg kjenner meg selv rimelig godt etter hvert, og da vet jeg også at det maniske er... Det er vondt fysisk å ha det sånn. Jeg kjenner at det blir et ubehag i kroppen. Et eksempel er munnhulen, jeg kjenner at det blir stress der. Det er ikke godt å forklare, men det er i hvert fall sånn at jeg kjenner det selv.”

"How I found out" (2013)

How I found out I had a bipolar disorder: A reflexive-collaborative exploration of the process of identifying that one is struggling with a severe mental health problem

Marius Veseth, Per-Einar Binder, Marit Borg & Larry Davidson

Abstract. Research indicates that it may take up to 10 years between onset of symptoms of bipolar disorder and receiving correct diagnosis and treatment. What is this period like? How do individuals experience the process of discovering that they have a bipolar disorder? In this study we utilized a hermeneutical-phenomenological approach developed within a reflexive-collaborative framework to explore these questions. In-depth interviews with 13 participants who reported both bipolar I and bipolar II diagnoses were conducted. We analyzed our data in collaboration with a group of 12 coresearchers who have experiences of mood disorders, and through reflexive dialogue with this group we validated and expanded our results. We describe three phases through which participants manoeuvred from (a) "uncertainty and confusion" through (b) "grasping the novel and unusual experiential states" to (c) "giving meaning to the lived experiences of intense ups and downs." These results are discussed in relation to theory, research and practice.

Keywords: bipolar disorders; recovery; hermeneutics; phenomenology; reflexivity; collaboration; service user involvement

Please cite this article as:

Veseth, M., Binder, P-E., Borg, M. & Davidson, L. (2013). How I found out I had a bipolar disorder: A reflexive-collaborative exploration of the process of identifying that one is struggling with a severe mental health problem. *Qualitative Studies* 4(1): 21-38.

Introduction

Bipolar disorders are heterogeneous mental illnesses with a lifetime prevalence of about 3.9 % of the adult population (Kessler et al., 2005). People who struggle with these mental health problems are typically burdened with periods of severe depression, mania or hypomania, as well as mixed episodes. According to diagnostic criteria, bipolar I disorder is characterized by at least one lifetime manic or mixed episode; bipolar II disorder by at least one lifetime hypomanic episode along with at least one episode of major depression; and cyclothymia by two or more years of alterations between hypomanic and depressive symptoms that do not meet criteria for hypomania or a major depressive episode (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). The disorders are accordingly often described as a continuum of severity (Cassano et al.,

UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION



GRASPING THE NOVEL AND
UNUSUAL EXPERIENTIAL STATES



DEVELOPING WAYS OF GIVING
MEANING TO THE LIVED EXPERIENCES
OF INTENSE UPS AND DOWNS



CHALLENGES IN DEFINING
ONE'S SYMPTOMS



RECOGNITION AS A STEP
TOWARD RECOVERY

RESEARCH PAPER

Negotiating the coresearcher mandate – service users' experiences of doing collaborative research on mental health

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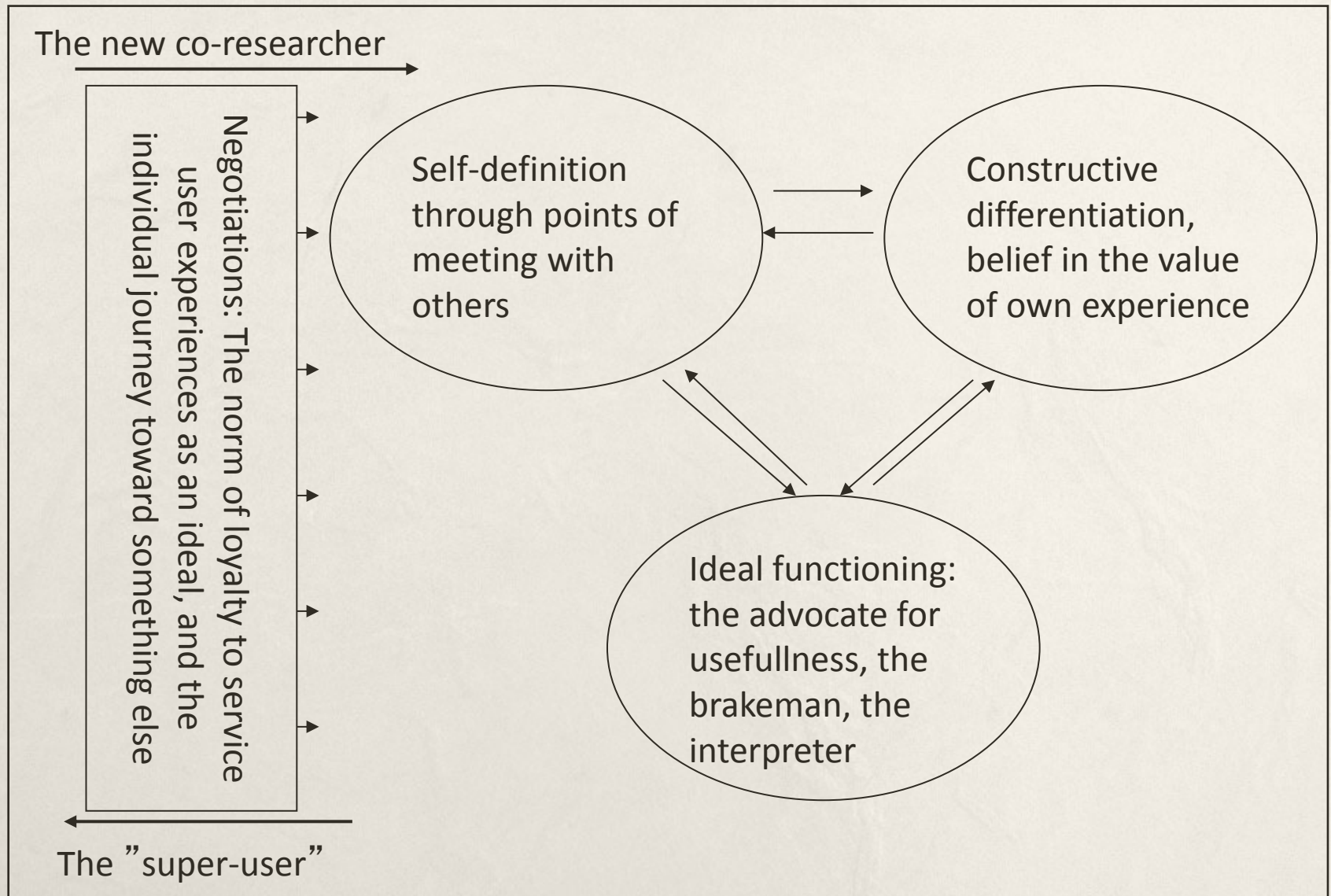
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Sentrale funn

- * Sosiale prosesser og forhandlinger av mandat
 - * Selv-definering som medforsker gjennom nettverk med andre medforskere
 - * Konstruktiv differensiering fra det akademiske forskerfeltet gjennom kunnskap og kjennskap
- * Opplevelse av funksjoner som øker kvalitet
 - * Advokat for matnyttighet
 - * The Brakeman
 - * Tolken



Selv-definering som medforsker

A very important side effect of this research school is the network that we have become part of. This is of immensurable value. So, if we are talking about the research school, I think that is an important issue to emphasize.

Here, we have been a group [word group tonally emphasized] of people with service-user experiences. It has something to do with getting strengthened that . . . well, representing something, so to speak. That you are not there only by and for yourself, but that you listen to the others, right? Because now, when you are a co-researcher you carry your network with you, and the more you are involved with your network and listen to what the others say, I think that is an important thing with this school – that we are sort of a group of equals.

Konstruktiv differensiering

It doesn't mean that we can't learn research terminology, but that what we have as a core . . . that we are people with service user experience. Right? We have these experiences. If we could push a button and get well, we would, but that's not how it works. . . . But I don't think we should try to become like the others. I think we should make sure that our experiences don't disappear, because through them we can help.

Through knowledge about research, familiarity with these processes, you experience that you are not the only one having such and such thoughts. It does something . . . to understand your own value, in a way, and to know that the experiences we have, they are just as valuable as other experiences.

Funksjon: Advokat for matnyttighet

It is this thing called “everyone is closest to themselves” . . . like, there is something about a researcher being a researcher, right? The researcher has his work and his research topic, his career and . . . his network, and his friends and his family. There are, like, restrictions to what he can get involved in and such. So, like, I think these research topics risk becoming very much like “topics,” right, meaning that there is some distance to the real lives of real people.

What is really . . . the real motivation there? Right, what are universities and colleges measured by? What is it? How do they get their money? Yes, by writing and producing as much as possible, right? It gets further away from the lives of real people. Yes, and it could mean a big difference to involve . . . the ones who

Funksjon: The brakeman

So just that there are two cultures, two groups, who meet, I think is incredibly valuable for the research process. Because it [the pace] does affect the quality of research, and I don't think you can reach [all phenomena]. Loads of good stuff is being done in research, but there are some issues that are practically unreachable for researchers, and that is because of the hurriedness and demands for efficiency in their approach.

There are indeed many things that will just slip by you. I mean, no matter how sharp you are, if you never, never get to pause for a moment and just think for a bit. . . . Right, there are things that you won't perceive before you have been quiet for a while and have done some thinking, preferably along with somebody else. . . .

Funksjon: Tolken

I now know researchers who have completely changed their questions on the basis of their cooperation with service user co-researchers, representatives of those who are to be asked. . . . It is kind of important, you know, to understand what you are being asked.

We can, as [another participant] was saying just now, we can pose those questions in a slightly different way, which for the researcher might seem less relevant. . . . But after, when you listen to the answers you got, then they are very relevant, right? It is through that role that we can contribute as co-researchers.