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"The kaleidoscope of vulnerability". Proposing a methodological approach enabling breadth and depth of exploration.

The Beginning

The Etic and Emic debate

Vulnerability (Noun) Etic

- Susceptibility to & p<u>ossibility</u> of harm
- Externally evaluated/judged description by someone else, normative, dichotomous, homogeneous.
- Quantitative measures of heath, biomedical, says nothing about what the person might be experiencing

Vulnerable (Adjective) Emic

- State of <u>being threatened</u> & feeling/fear of harm"
- Internally judged, description of the experience of being/feeling vulnerable.
- Qualitative & holistic
- Silent in health care literature

(Spiers 2000)

Perspectives of Vulnerability

- Mechanism to identify populations at risk of ill health
- Mechanism, to identify social groups in need of protection
- Consequence of social interaction, influenced by societal values
- Shifting experience
- Existential experience
- Vehicle for personal growth

(Heaslip 2011)

Vulnerability & the Gypsy Travelling Community

MECHANISM TO IDENTIFY POPULATIONS AT RISK OF ILL HEALTH

- Poorer physical health (Goward et al. 2006).
- Parry et al (2007) poorer health than their age sex matched counterparts, and were significantly more likely to have long term illness, health problems or disability.
- Poorer Mental health than general population (Goward et al. 2006; Parry et al. 2007).
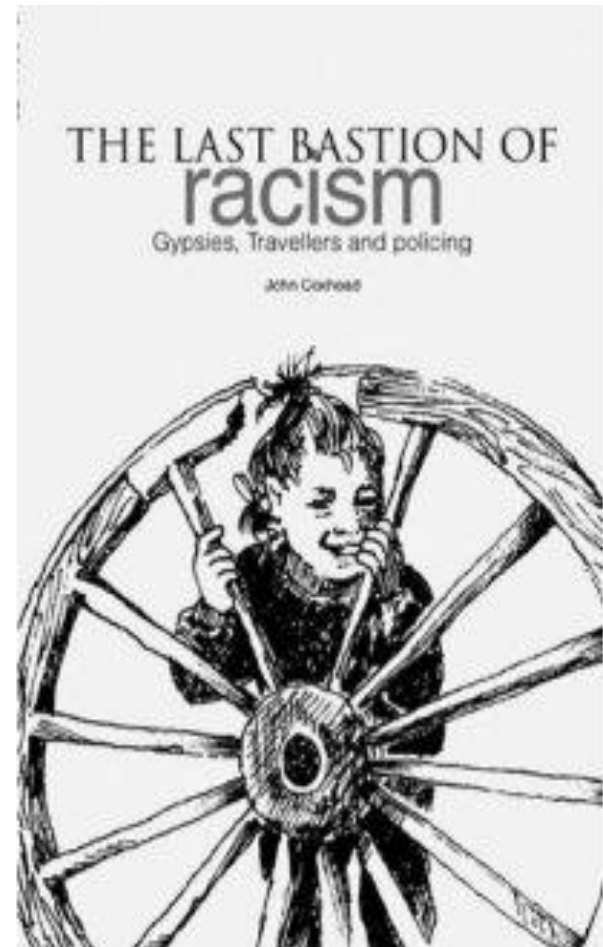
ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

- Experience difficulties in accessing services due to a lack of realistic & accessible information (Cemlyn 2000b).
- Peters et al (2009) 69% were permanently registered with a GP.
- Inadequate information , inequitable & poorly delivered services (Hodgins et al 2006.)

Vulnerability & the Gypsy Travelling Community

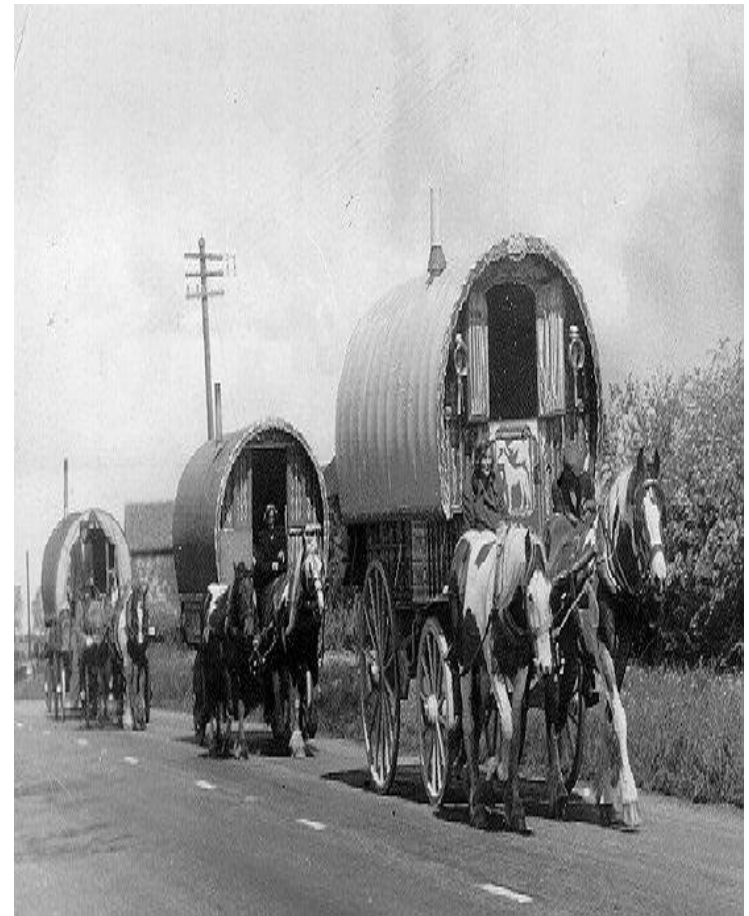**CONSEQUENCE OF SOCIAL INTERACTION INFLUENCED BY SOCIETIES VALUES**

- Peternelj-Taylor (2005) defines vulnerable populations as those who are typically impoverished, disenfranchised, or who are subject to discrimination, intolerance, and stigma.
- The Gypsy/Travelling community is recognised as one of the most socially excluded marginalised groups (McCaffery 2009; Van Cleemput et al. 2007)
- Experience discrimination (Karner 2004; Turner 2002).
- Cemlyn (2000a) argues that the travelling community could be perceived as vulnerable due to these structural inequalities experienced, as well as a tendency to pathologies them which reaffirms them as other which results in increasing their vulnerability.

THE LAST BASTION OF racism
Gypsies, Travellers and policing
John Coxhead

My Research

"The Lived Experience of Vulnerability".

Understanding vulnerability from a Gypsy/Travelling perspective

The Confusion

micah s, 2005
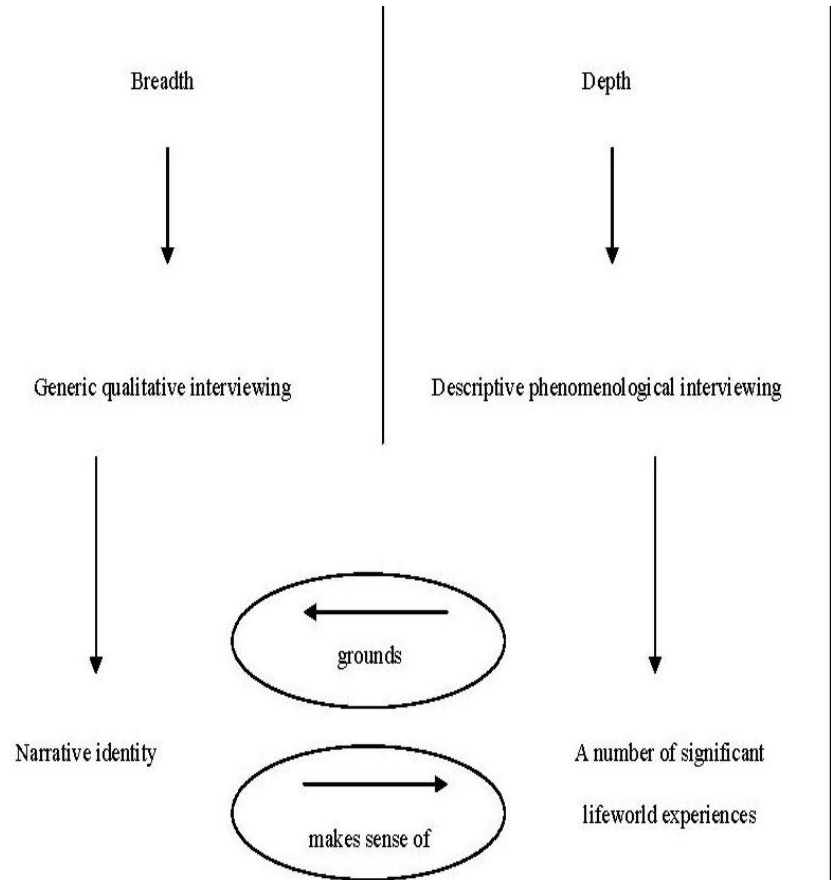
- What is vulnerability?
- Does it mean something different to individuals in the Gypsy/Travelling community as opposed to the normative perspective??
- Do I need to understand the breadth before I can explore the depth?

Breadth & Depth in Qualitative Research (Todres and Galvin 2005)

- Study exploring experiences of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease.
- Two phased methodological approach,
  - Phase 1 - generic qualitative study of narrative breadth in order to generate a broad thematic understanding of the narrative.
  - Phase 2 - in-depth study of particular selected phenomenon chosen from the broad narrative via descriptive phenomenology
- Utilising this approach Todres and Galvin (2005) argue provides an understanding of the breath of the phenomenon as well as the depth of the experience.

Breadth

Depth

Generic qualitative interviewing

Descriptive phenomenological interviewing

grounds

Narrative identity

makes sense of

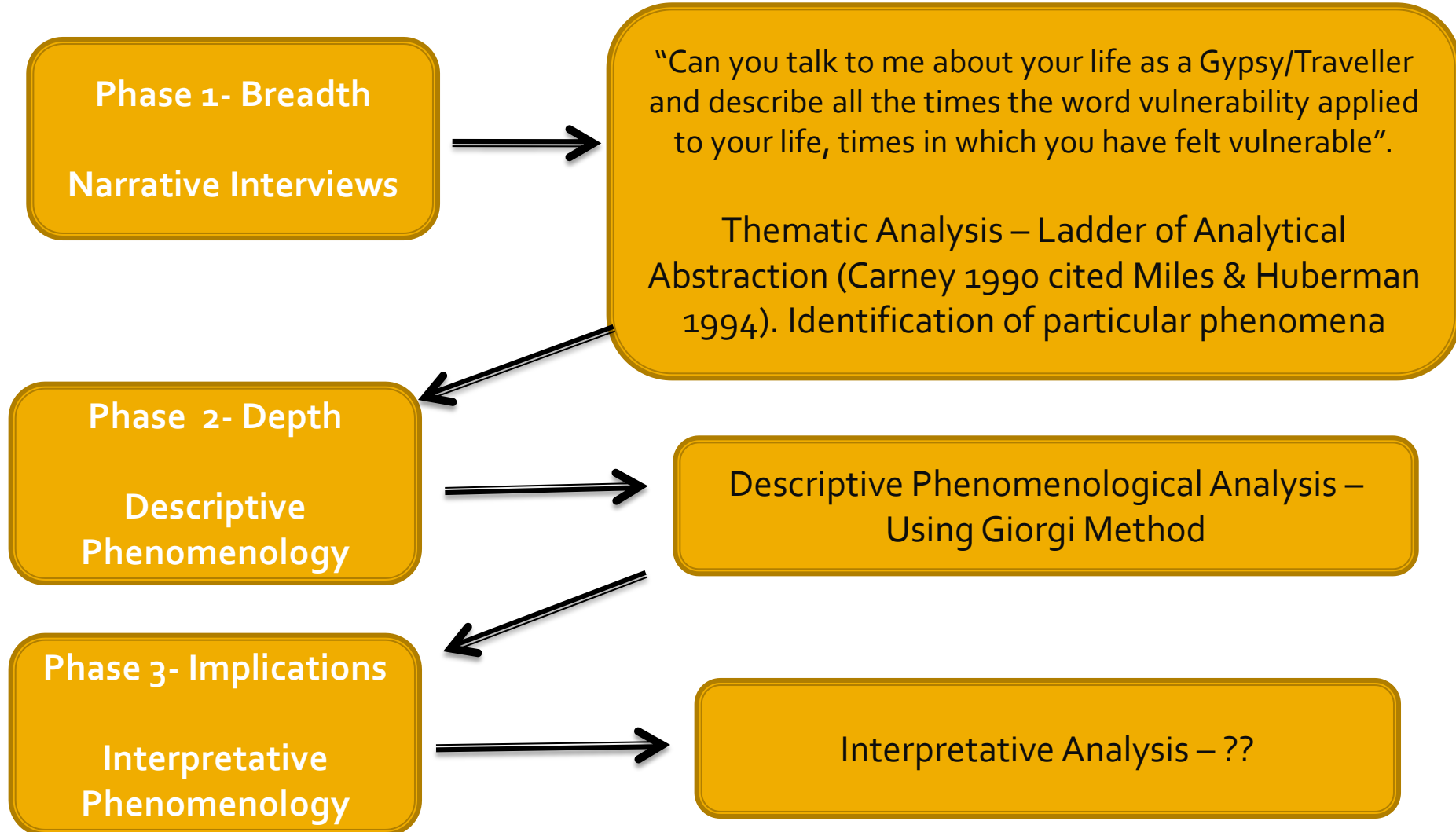A number of significant

lifeworld experiences

Challenges of this approach to my study

- Greenfield & Home (2006) argue that too often Gypsies/Travellers are over investigated for the purposes of research which fails to bring about clear change; or that the research is carried out in a manner which is either meaningless or potentially offensive.
- This has resulted in the gypsy and travelling community reporting feeling exploited by researchers and academics.

Practice, educational and theoretical implications of the study.

My Proposed Approach

Phase 1- Breadth

Narrative Interviews

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"Can you talk to me about your life as a Gypsy/Traveller and describe all the times the word vulnerability applied to your life, times in which you have felt vulnerable".

Thematic Analysis – Ladder of Analytical Abstraction (Carney 1990 cited Miles & Huberman 1994). Identification of particular phenomena

Phase 2- Depth

Descriptive Phenomenology

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Descriptive Phenomenological Analysis – Using Giorgi Method

Phase 3- Implications

Interpretative Phenomenology

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Interpretative Analysis – ??

Comments……

Thoughts…….

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Defining "Vulnerable"

Latin root of vulnerability is '*vuln*' which means wound or '*vulnare*' meaning to wound

Concise Oxford Dictionary "that which maybe wounded, susceptible of injury, exposed to damage by weapon, criticism" (Sykes 1982:1205)

Oxford English Dictionary 'exposed to being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally' (Pearsall 2001:1608).

Common to all of these, is the notion of harm which could be either physical or psychological, as well as a danger or threat to the person

Term vulnerable is an adjective, therefore one must be vulnerable to something.

In health & social care the term vulnerable it is used as a plural noun (Clark 2007)