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Reducing health inequalities through public health practice: The role of the life world as a determinant of health.

An illustration of the dehumanising effect of `othering` in relation to homeless people and potential alternatives (a work in progress).

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Our original paper....

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Research Article
**Principles of Lifeworld Led Public Health Practice in
the UK and Sweden: Reducing Health Inequalities**

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That paper....

- Outlined the elements of the life world and their relevance for public health practice in relation to the reduction of health inequalities.
- Elements of the lifeworld: temporality, spatiality, intersubjectivity, embodiment, mood (Husserl 1970, Boss 1979, Heidegger 1962, Merleau - Ponty 1972)
- Proposed some common principles for life world led public health practice based on these elements in the UK and Sweden.
- Associate Prof Clara Aarts from Uppsala University Sweden is a co author and working with us on the follow up paper we are presenting today.

The Principles....

1. “Understand the persons life world by listening to their view of their current situation and their potential, in relation to:
 - Participation, occupation, engagement, and income (temporality).
 - The public health spaciality continuum (spaciality).
 - Safety and relationships (intersubjectivity).
 - The context and potential for health behaviour change (embodiment).
 - What factors may impact on mental health and wellbeing for a particular individual or family (mood).”

(Hemingway, Norton & Aarts 2015)

Principles (continued)....

- 2. “Offer resources and empowerment based support as appropriate.” To focus practice on reducing inequalities and inequities in health and wellbeing.
- 3. “Share and lobby using life world led case studies and enable community members to influence, local and national policy and partnership working in relationship to the individual, their family and their local communities.”

(Hemingway, Norton & Aarts 2015)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mbcHMEPfx8

Reactions.....

- How did that make you feel?

An example of othering.....?

`Othering` through
design...

`Othering` reflects power relationships where humans will deny others value and see them as fundamentally different and less important and `labels` used by professionals can add to discrimination and disadvantage.

(Krumer-Nevo & Benjamin 2010)

OTHERING

US AND THEM

DIFFERENT

POOR

HARD TO REACH

CULTURE OF POVERTY

UNDERCLASS

CULTURE OF DEPENDENCY

UNDESERVING POOR

NOT PLAYING BY THE RULES

POVERTY PORN

(Krumer-Nevo & Benjamin 2010)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-38157410>

- The purpose of our analysis is going to be to raise awareness of alternative non-othering interventions for public health and to challenge dehumanising practices.

“We suggest that a society in which human dignity is respected is a healthy society; that is, a society in which people can best achieve physical, mental and social well-being.” (Mann 1995)

Public health....

- Should we be challenging the politics of representation in order for us to “significantly distance our practice from representations of people in poverty which underpin or enable `othering`”?
- Through ignoring the experiences, pain, frustration and humanity of those living in poverty in the way we study and represent inequalities in health are we helping to portray them in the public imagination as victims of their situations reinforcing the image of passivity?

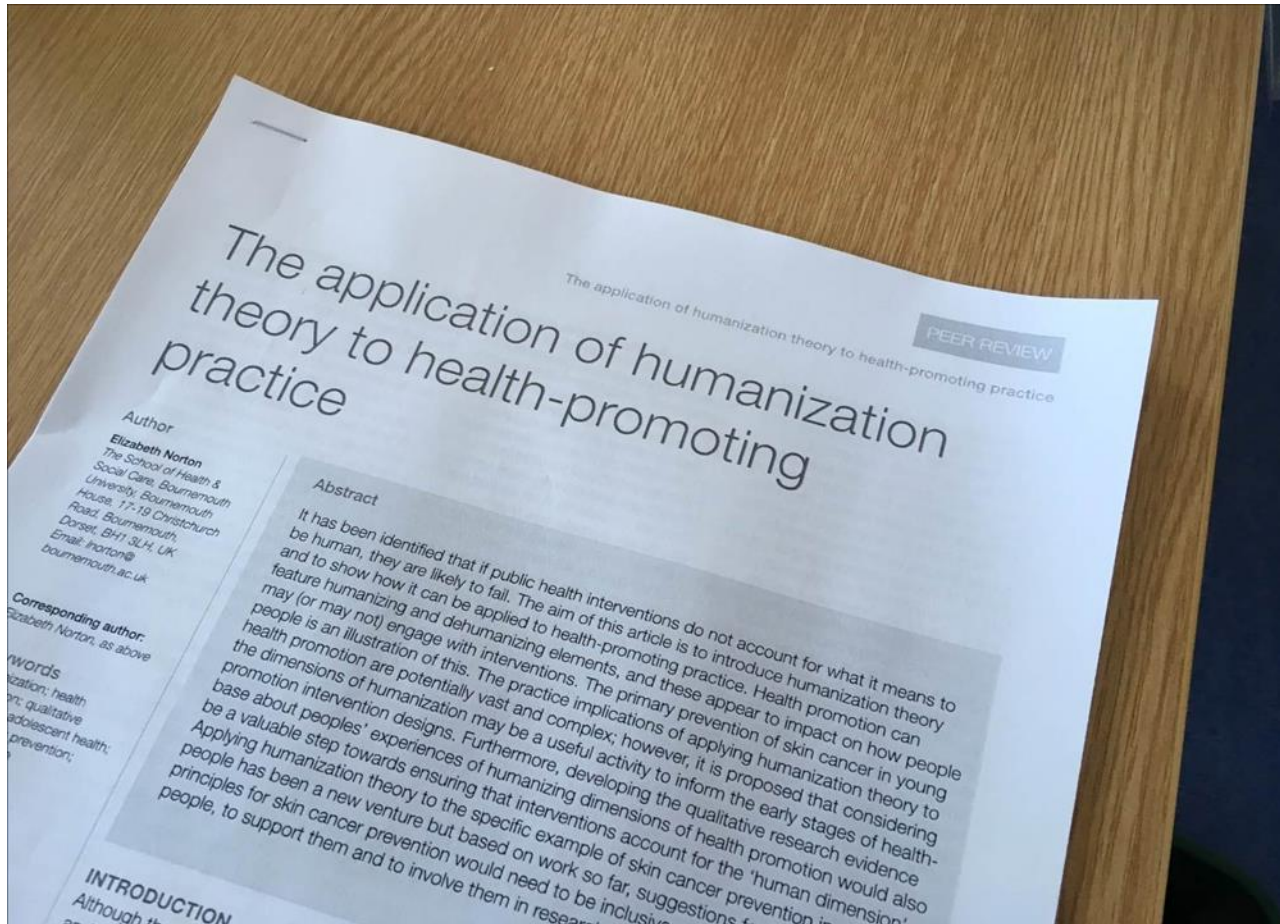
(Krumer-Nevo & Benjamin 2010, Hemingway 2012)

“Complex problems require an approach that encourages close collaboration between people in professions who do not necessarily share a common language, concepts, methods or departments/organisations. The partners must strive to understand and solve complex problems in the **life world** and view the complexities of the whole project rather than one part of it. By transcending their own disciplines to inform one another’s work, capture complexity and create new intellectual spaces the members of such teams can stimulate innovation.”

Satariano & Maus 2018

By using a lifeworld approach to underpin policy and practice we are advocating learning through ‘not knowing’ in the first instance and listening then acting instead.

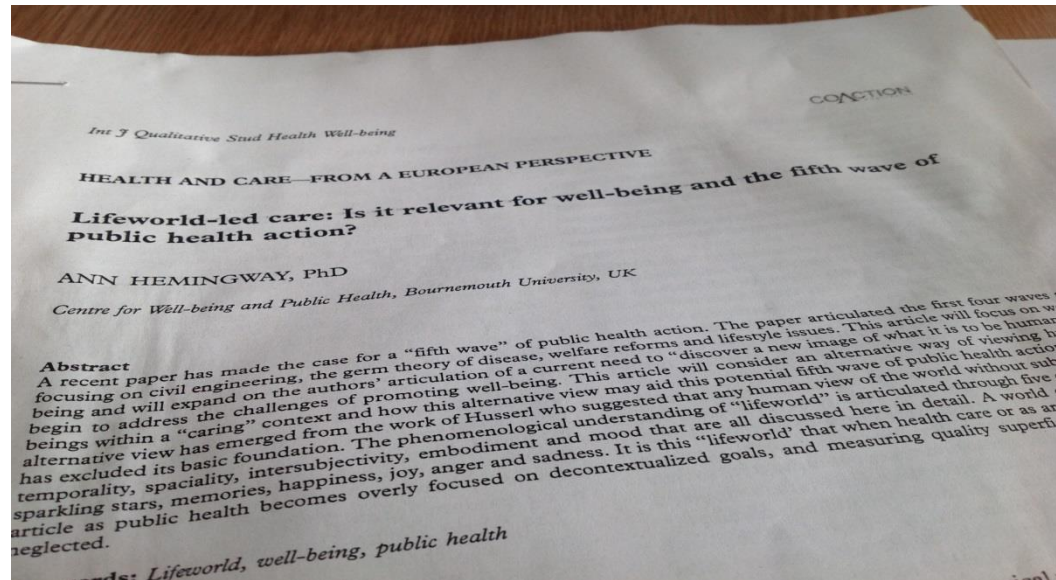
Through 'learning through not knowing' we can humanise public health interventions (Norton 2013)



Humanised life world led Alternative responses....

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/impacthomelessness>

- Lifeworld as a determinant of health : An illustration of the dehumanising effect of `othering` in relation to homeless people and potential alternatives (a work in progress).
- The lifeworld is a missing element of the public health evidence-base.



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