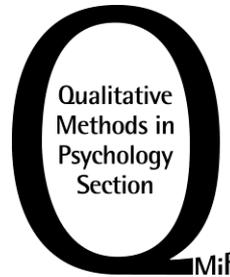




The
British
Psychological
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National Forum for
NFAO Assertive
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Sussex Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust



The Open University

Making-Decisions and Mental Healthcare: A Phenomenological Analysis

PhD study: Dr Simon Wharne

Five different kinds of decision:

1. Being questioned in a moral order
2. Being free
3. Reactive and spontaneous
4. Not finding meaning in life events
5. Made under duress
6. Finding meaning in life events

1. being questioned in a moral order

The Act does not impose a legal duty on anyone to 'comply' with the Code – it should be viewed as guidance rather than instruction. But if they have not followed relevant guidance contained in the Code then they will be expected to give good reasons why they have departed from it. (Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice: 2)

1. being questioned in a moral order

“The house got repossessed when I stopped paying the mortgage on it, I got made redundant from my job, um, I was getting quite unwell and people were questioning; “What what are you doing not working and things?” ” (Laurie).

2. being free

Mental Capacity is:

‘a state of mind in which a person is thought to be able to make choices which are consistent with those that they usually make, that is, when unaffected by symptoms of mental illness.’

People have a right to make ‘unwise decisions’ – ‘intentionally homeless?’

2. being free

“I always wanted to opt out of society, I didn’t like the nine to five, having to wear a suit to work, having to be clean shaven with short hair, and shiny shoes, you know [laughs]” (Chris).

Scanlon, C. & Adlam, J. (2008) Refusal, social exclusion and the cycle of rejection: A cynical analysis? *Critical Social Policy*, 28, 529-549.

3. reactive and spontaneous

*“One day um, after after an argument with my dad and a fight, I just just left the house, in the middle of the night, walked around for a while, got on a train and ended up in ****, so basically sort of homeless in a town I didn’t know” (Chris).*

“I would make a decision as to whether it would give me a good time or whether I had enough money in my pocket to go and do that” (Chris).

3. reactive and spontaneous

“I got out of a window in the middle of the night and I smashed a window, um, next, I got brought back... by the police because I was wandering around um, early in the morning” (Laurie).

“Used to make decisions on trains, used to but I don’t these days because I don’t get out, get away much. Because I lose track of what, um, people keep a track on me with a computerised record, which is not where I am at at all” (Ben).

4. not finding meaning in life events

“He just seemed to spend most of his life, stopping his medication, getting kicked out of his accommodation, going into hospital...” (Diana).

5. made under duress

“...“I’ve actually detained you before”... I could have actually quite frank conversations with him, to say; “look,” and I didn’t feel that was a threat or anything, I was just telling him that this is the society, this is what going to happen, it’s not, it’s not a threat” (Diana).

6. finding meaning in life events

“Well I got off the train... and sat on one of seafront, the benches, and a woman came down and gave me a flask of coffee and sandwiches for me. I thought why I have never never its such such a shock I I thought I couldn't believe it I'll stay here forever”
(Ben).

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Wharne, S. Langdridge, D. and Motzkau, J.
(2012) Decision making in mental healthcare: a
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40:2, 153-165

researchgate: Simon Wharne (Thesis)

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