

Mapping out one's own paths towards work: Focus on work after spinal cord injury

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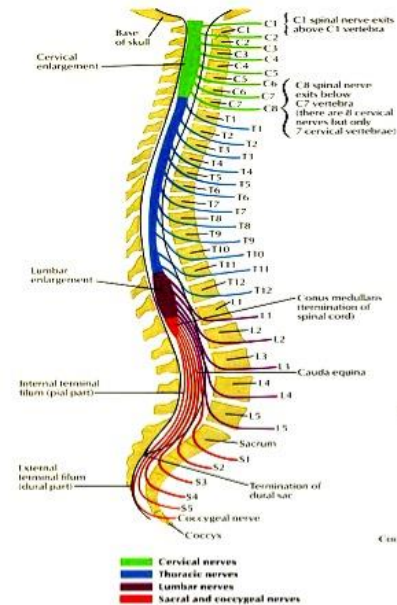


Presentation overview

- Participation-participatory research design
- Photovoice
- Findings, illustrated by stories and photos
- Reflection on findings and implementation

Return to work after spinal cord injury

- Life disruption, often during working age
- Role of work meaningful participation
- Low employment rates
- Lack of intervention research



Participation

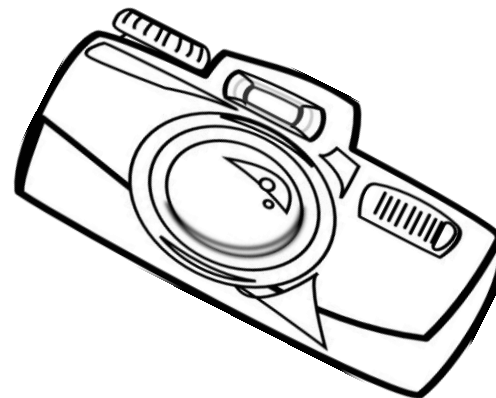
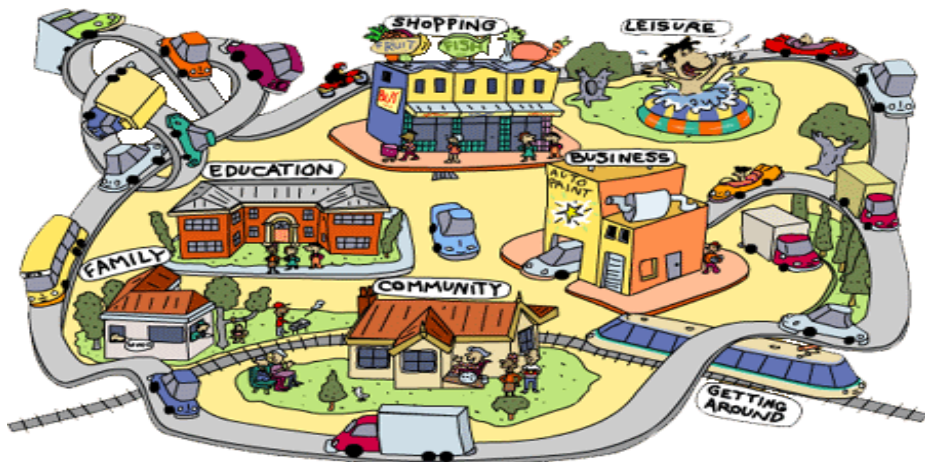
Engaging in occupations

Inclusion, power, voice,
access

Research design and
methodologies



What is Photovoice?



- record and reflect strengths and hinders in their communities
- engage in critical dialogue about important topics
- play an active role in reaching the public and policymakers



Method- Aim and members

Aim: To explore experiences of hindrances and possibilities in return to work among working adults with SCI using photovoice methods.

Demographics	Members of the photovoicegroup (n=6)
Age	28-52 years
Years post injury	3-10 years
Level of SCI	C6-L1 (AIS A-B)
Gender	3 men & 3 women

Method - procedure and analysis

Data generation

- Weekly photovoice sessions for 8 weeks (2 hour sessions)
- Initial orientation session (photovoice, ground rules, ethics)
- Photos between each session
- Digital recording of discussions and fieldnotes

Data analysis

- Visual analysis of pictures
- Thematic analysis of narratives (transcribed text, field notes)

There is only one way



The pictures are taken by the photovoice participants

Welcome back or not



Toilet sign: Eng. X's outhouse

The pictures are taken by the
photovoice participants

To be like anyone else or to be perceived as someone else



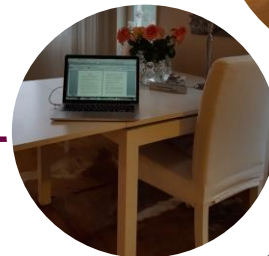
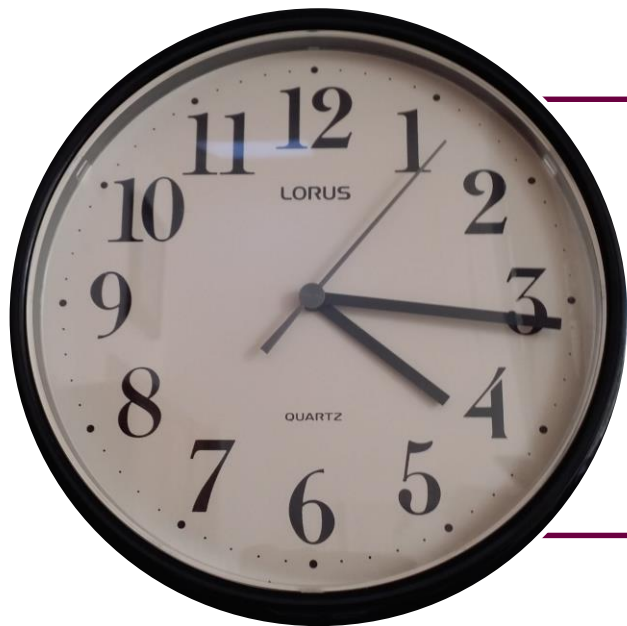
The pictures are taken by the
photovoice participants

Friction

in an absence of clarity



Integrating strategies in everyday life with work



Conclusion



Work viable and rewarding



Contributes to doing, being, becoming,
belonging



Need to map out one's own paths
towards work

Conclusion



- Collaboration to improve health care interventions
- Design personalised support to facilitate the process
- Address gaps in work and community contexts

Thank you!

Read more/contact:

- Publication: Submitted to Qualitative Health Research
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Selected references:

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- Bergmark, B., Westgren, N., & Asaba, E. (2011). Returning to work after spinal cord injury: exploring young adults' early expectations and experience. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 33(25-26):2553-8.
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Methodological consideration

- Engagement in critical dialogue about communities
- Burden of participation
 - Balanced with modification
 - Brief introduction
 - Flexibility in ground rules
- Role of researcher in analysis “whose voice”

Eligible criteria

- Men and women 18-55
- Having returned to paid employment
- Having had to make some form of adaptation to the work situation after injury

Themes for the photovoice sessions

1. **Orientation session**
2. Barriers and solutions with a focus of work
3. The social dimension of working with SCI
4. Experiences I like to share in regards to work after SCI
5. My driving force in choosing work
6. To challenge the norm at work
7. **Visual analysis**
8. How do I get work to work?