



All kinds of clever

Re-imagining occupational therapy clients as communities: Presenting the Community-Centred Practice Framework

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Imagine this...

You are an occupational therapist working in a community-based substance misuse service.

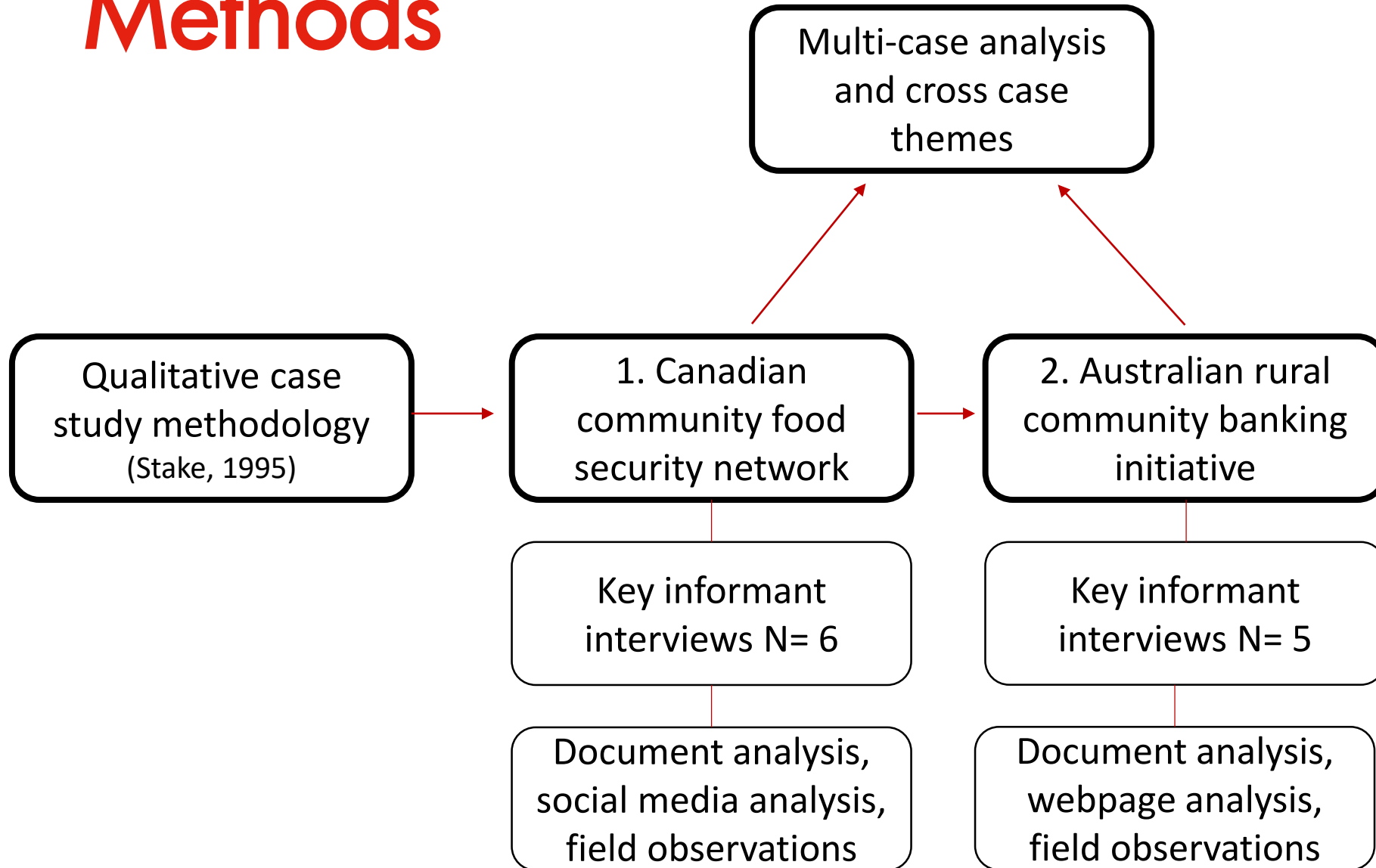
You see a caseload of up to 30 adolescents who present with similar substance misuse issues and health risks and harms

Seeing the pattern of issues within the community, you realise that a proportion of the problems experienced by young people are caused by *community-level* social, cultural, political, economic and environmental determinants

You decide to partner with local young people, schools, sports clubs, businesses and organisations to explore and assess community-level issues and barriers, and to develop community-level occupational goals and strategies for intervention that can be implemented in collaboration with them

This is community-centred practice

Methods



1 Community Identity

Who is the community client?

- Social actors and social field (people, groups, organisations, networks)
- Place and/or setting

2 Community Occupations

What occupations are important?

What is the occupational goal?

- Co-occupation
- Diverse roles, skills, values, experiences, and expertise

3 Community Resources and Barriers

What resources exist?

How can resources be used to overcome barriers?

- Economic/Non-economic
- Power redistribution

4 Participation Enablement

What processes are used for community participation

What is the occupational therapists' enablement role?

- Enabling strategies

1. Community Identity

The first component occupational therapists to question:

- Who is the community client?

To understand community identity, which is defined by **social actors** and **social field**, and **place and setting**.

1 Community Identity

Who is the community client?

- Social actors and social field (people, groups, organisations, networks)
- Place and/or setting

2. Community Occupations

The second component encourages occupational therapists to question:

- What occupations are important to the community?
- What joint action is taken by community members towards their shared goal?

Theories of **co-occupation** and **community heterogeneity** are used to conceptualise community-level occupations.

2 Community Occupations

What occupations are important?

What is the occupational goal?

- *Co-occupation*
- *Diverse roles, skills, values, experiences, and expertise*

3. Community Resources and Barriers

In the third component occupational therapists are encouraged to question:

- What resources are needed by the community?
- What barriers prevent participation?

It is important to audit resources with both **economic** and **non-economic** value. This is used to support a process of **power redistribution**.

3 Community Resources and Barriers

What resources exist?

How can resources be used to overcome barriers?

- Economic/Non-economic
- Power redistribution

4. Participation Enablement

In the fourth component the questions to be asked include:

- What processes are used for community participation?
- What is the occupational therapists enablement role?

This process will enable occupation therapists to select and utilise **enabling strategies** with the community to achieve their occupational goal.

4 Participation Enablement

What processes are used for community participation

What is the occupational therapists' enablement role?

- Enabling strategies

Implications for practice and research

- The proposed conceptual framework can improve understanding of community as clients and utilisation of a community-centred practice approach
- Further research is needed to trial and evaluate the CCPF across the wide range of socially and culturally diverse community contexts where occupational therapists currently and/or could potentially work

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Thank you

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