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Occupational Transition in the Process of Becoming Housed Following Chronic Homelessness

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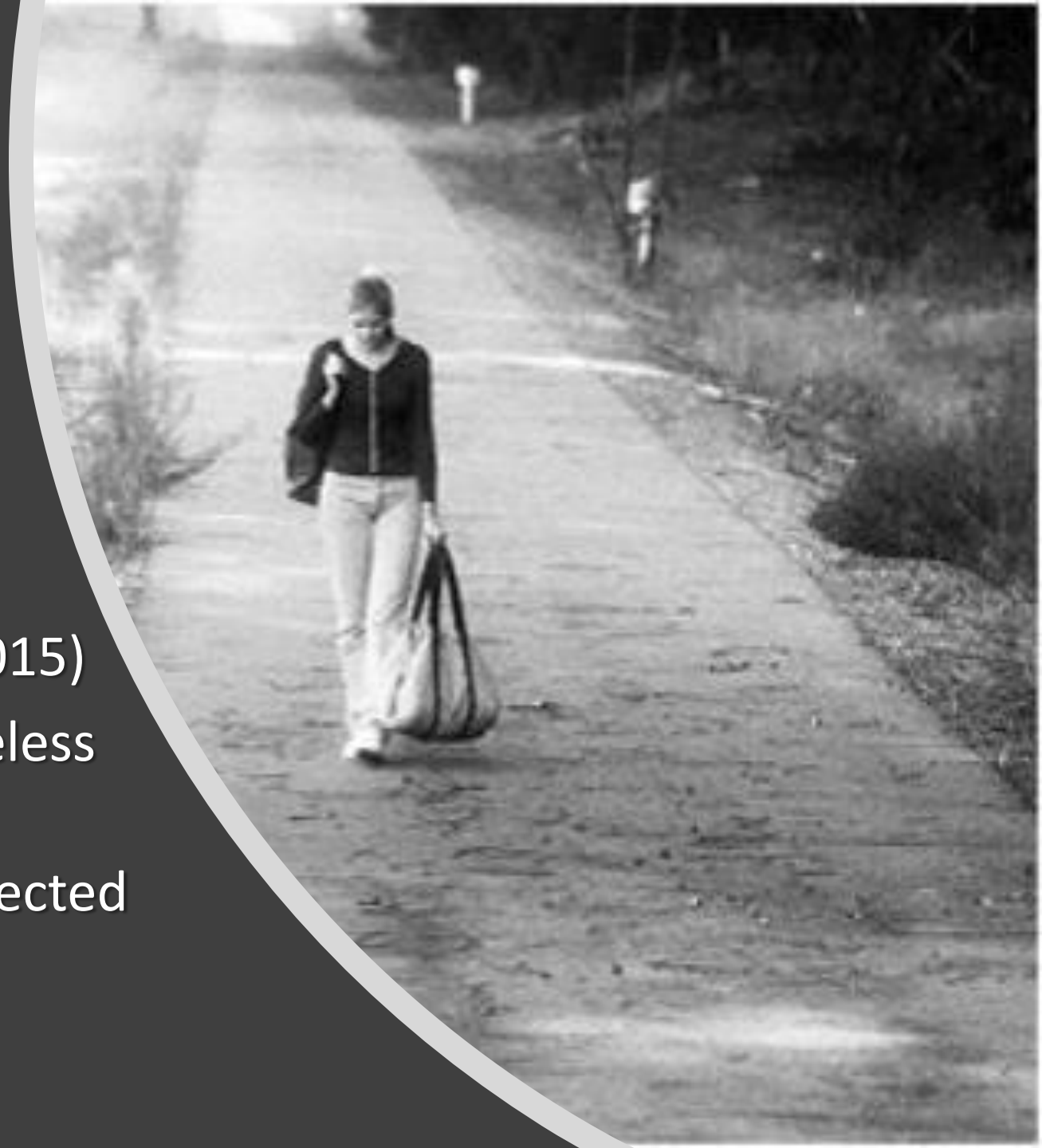
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Gaps in Existing Literature

- Only 2 prior studies focused on occupational transition:
 - Heuchemer & Josephsson (2006)
 - Raphael-Greenfield & Gutman (2015)
- Few focused on the chronically homeless population
- A small urban or rural context is neglected



Research Question:

What is the experience of occupational transition of chronically homeless persons during the process of being housed?



Recruitment

Purposive
Housing case
managers;
Housing Help
Centre

Sample

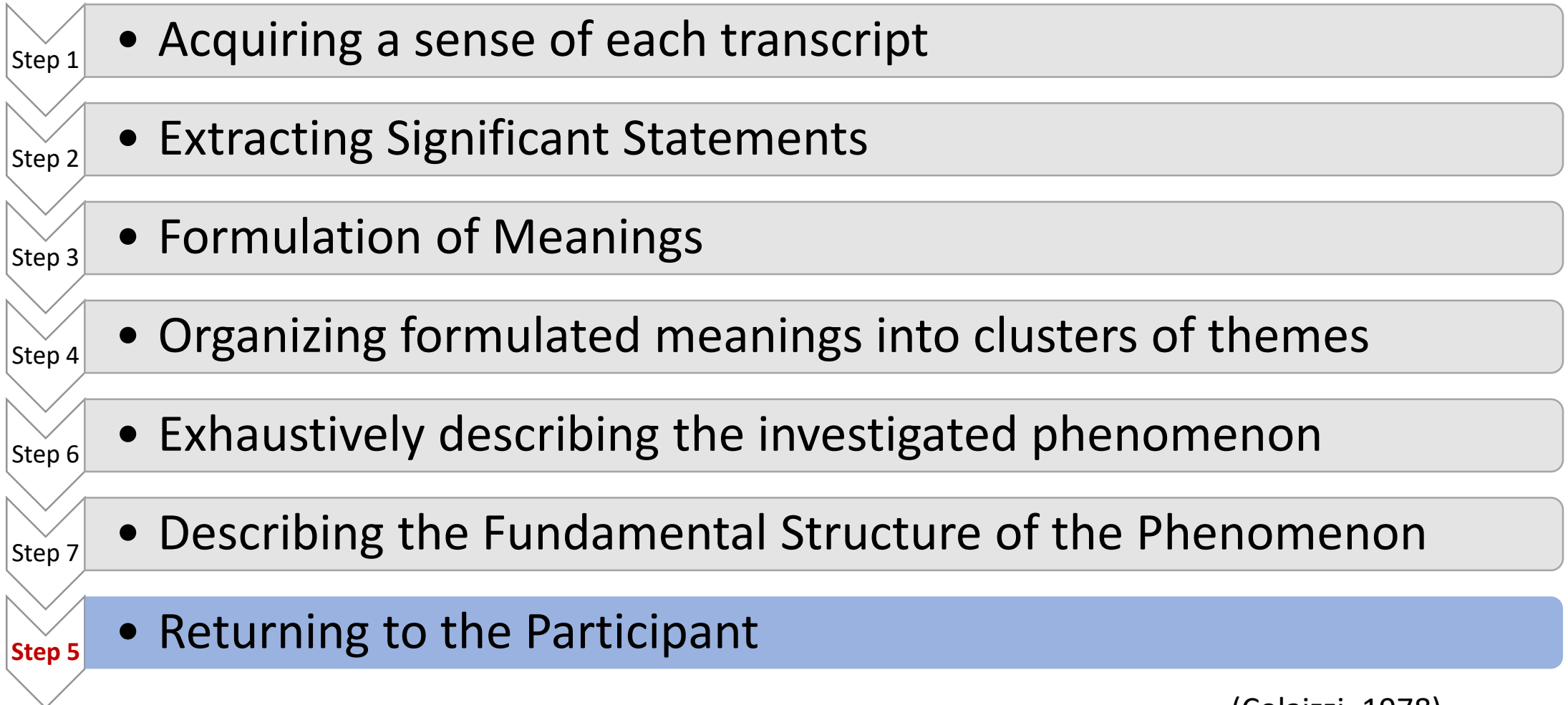
N = 11
3F
21-52y (Mdn = 45)
Hx Chronic
Homelessness
Housed for 3-24mos



Procedure

- Semi-structured interviews over 1-2 sessions
 - 39m-3h 35m
- Recorded & Transcribed
- Managed using NVivo 10
(QSR International, 2012)

Analysis



(Colaizzi, 1978)

Trustworthiness

*Criteria
established
by Lincoln &
Guba (1985)

Credibility:

- Prolonged Engagement
- Peer Debriefing
- Negative Case Analysis
- Member Checking

Transferability:

- Rich, Thick Description

Dependability:

- Methods Described in Detail
to Promote Reproducibility

Confirmability:

- Confirmability Audit
- Audit Trail
- Reflexivity

Health Characteristics

Self-Reported Health (n=11)	n (%)
Mental Illness (Anxiety n=7; Bi Polar n=5; Depression n=5)	9 (81.9)
Substance Use [Severe (daily use) n=3; Moderate (<1/day; >1/week) n=1; Mild (<1/week) n=2; In Recovery n=1]	7 (63.6)
Physical Health (Chronic Pain n=4; MSK n=4; Cardiac n=3; Cog/Neuro n=4; TBI n=2; Diabetes n=1)	8 (72.7)

Phase III Results

- 6 themes/11 sub-themes emerged

Coping with
the Quiet

Negotiating
Substance
Use

Resuming
Familiar
Occupations

Occupations
to Give Back

Occupation
as Social
Inclusion

Meaning of
Spiritual
Occupations

Phase III Res

- 6 themes/11

Coping with
the Quiet

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Meaning of
Spiritual
Occupations

“I realized that...I was heading downtown with bolt cutters in my backpack...and going down to steal bicycles just because I was bored...I was isolating, and drinking...There wasn't that stimuli...of the insanity of my old world. Everything was kind of like, *normal* now...” [Michael]

Ph

“The pastor, he saw me sitting in the back of the church by myself and came up to me and said “[Luke], why don’t you come sit up front here with me and my family and sit with us every day? You don’t need to be sitting back here by yourself! . . . there’s more light up front. To someone who came from homelessness, that was worth more than anything, because of the aloneness and isolation you feel and your self-worth and self-esteem. And if you’ve ever had those issues before you became homeless, it’s an exponential problem! So that just allowed me to gain strength. Slowly, by listening and reading, I started participating in more meaningful activities at the church.” [Luke]

Occupation
Social
Inclusion

Meaning of
Spiritual
Occupations

Occupational transition in the process of becoming housed following chronic homelessness

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La transition occupationnelle liée au processus d'obtention d'un logement à la suite d'une itinérance chronique

Carrie Anne Marshall , Rosemary Lysaght, and Terry Krupa

Key words: Health; Homeless persons; Human activities; Occupational behaviour; Poverty.

Mots clés : Activités humaines; Comportement occupationnel; Pauvreté; Personnes itinérantes; Santé.

Abstract

Background. Studying the occupations of formerly homeless persons as they transition to becoming housed following long-term homelessness has the potential to offer a meaningful contribution to the ongoing dialogue on homelessness. **Purpose.** Occupational transition was explored with a sample of persons with a history of chronic homelessness to contribute an occupational perspective to current scholarship on homelessness and to inform the practice of occupational therapists who support this population. **Method.** Interpretive phenomenology guided the study. Eleven persons with a history of chronic homelessness were engaged in semistructured interviews 3 to 24 months after becoming housed. **Findings.** Six themes emerged that highlighted occupation as a means of promoting social and psychological integration, and the meaning and experience of occupational transition. **Implications.** A more comprehensive support strategy acknowledging the occupations of chronically homeless persons is essential to incorporate into future research and practice aimed at promoting community

Implications

1. Supports the relevance of an occupational lens on the issue of homelessness
2. Highlights the prominence of boredom in the experience of recently housed persons
3. Emphasizes the role of the environment in determining the occupations of homeless persons in the transition to being housed



The background features a pattern of overlapping semi-circles in various shades of red, orange, and yellow. The circles are arranged in a way that they partially overlap each other, creating a layered effect. The colors are vibrant and the overall composition is abstract and geometric.

Questions?

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