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CASTING LIGHT INTO DARK CORNERS

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Social Constructivism

- "An ontological position that asserts that social phenomena and their meanings are continually being accomplished by social actors" (Bryman 2008, p692)

Social constructivism suggests that human experience, including perception, is mediated historically, culturally and linguistically. (Willig 2001)

Eg, the glass half full…….

Social Constructivism

- Hear the voice of older people in domiciliary care
- Beliefs and values
- Perceptions
- Roles
- Social Context of home
- Power relationships
- Positive care behaviours

Aim is to understand how people make sense of the world and their experience of care giving

Guba & Lincoln 1989 cited in Brown Wilson Clissett 2010

Area of concern

- Nature of Reality
- Relationship of the knower to the known

- Possibility of generalisation

- Possibility of causal links

- The role of values

Constructivist Principle

- Multiple social realities exist
- Interaction of the researcher & participant creates knowledge
- Concept of generalisation is replaced with the notion of tentative application to other similar settings
- ?separate cause from effect?

- Values permeate constructivist research