

The shadow side of belonging

Findings from an inclusive PhD study

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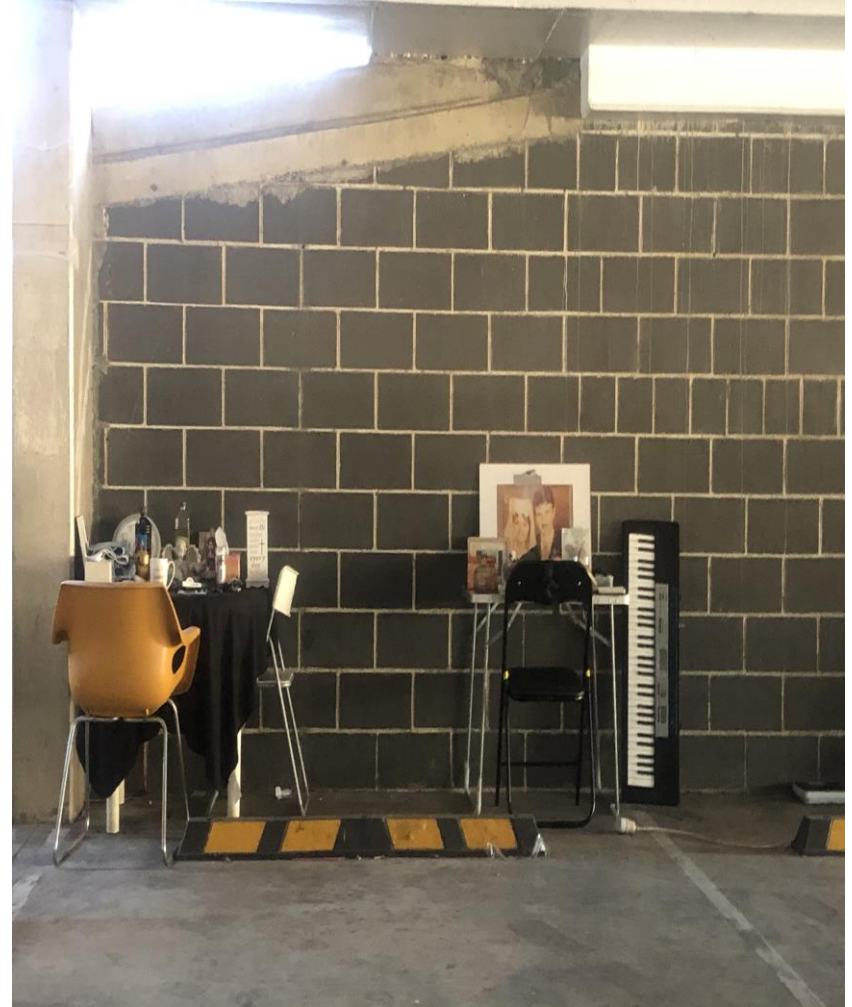


Lived experience advisors- Judith and Justen



Overview

- The challenge of social inclusion
- Inclusive methods
- Overarching themes: Safety and precarity
- Findings- Traumatic experience
- Findings- Stigmatised identities
- Implications- Relational and trauma informed practice



Struggle street (Lenore)

Social inclusion, belonging and complex support needs



My three security guards (Lenore)

Social inclusion- narrowly defined and exclusive

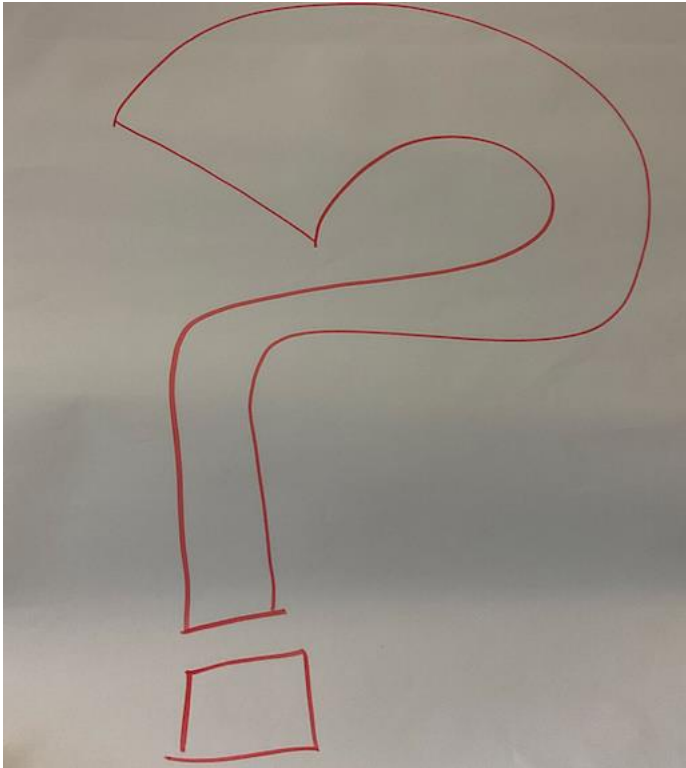
Belonging- adds subjectivity to social inclusion discourses

- contextual and relational (May, 2011)

Complex support needs- multiple and simultaneous

- depth and breadth of support

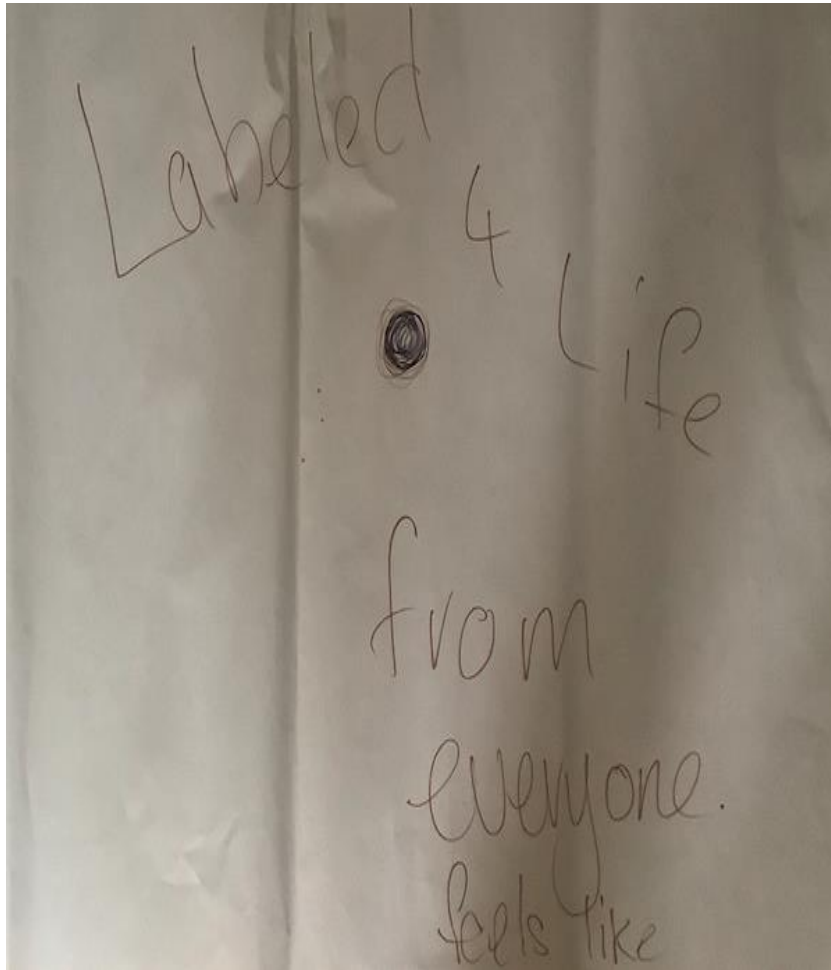
Research question



How do people with intellectual disabilities describe and construct belonging in their lives?

Self portrait. Relational Mapping Interview (Matt)

Methods

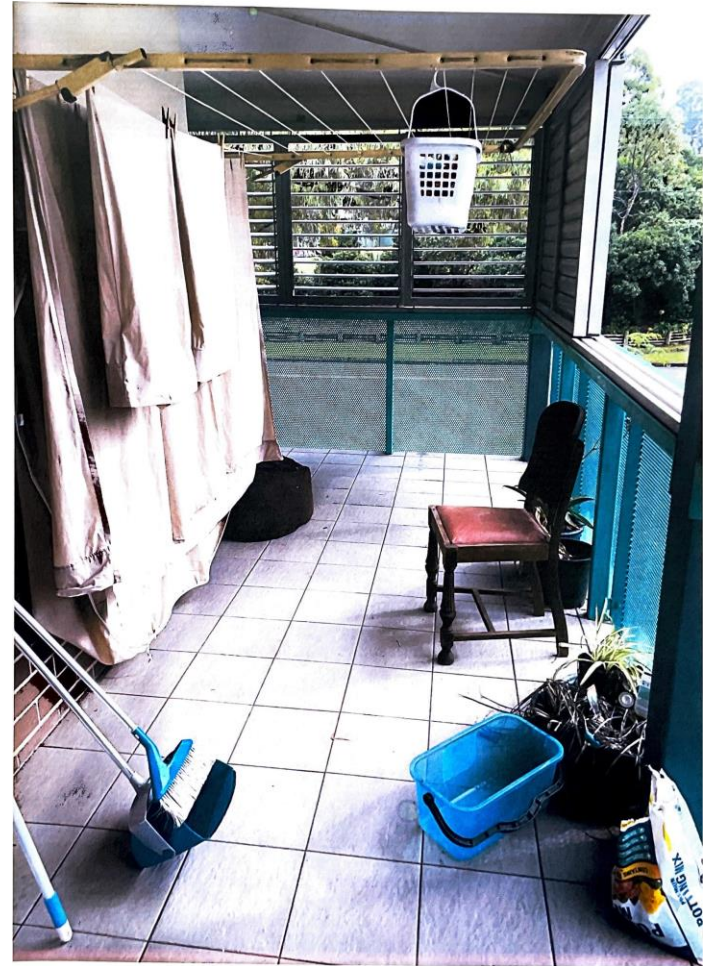
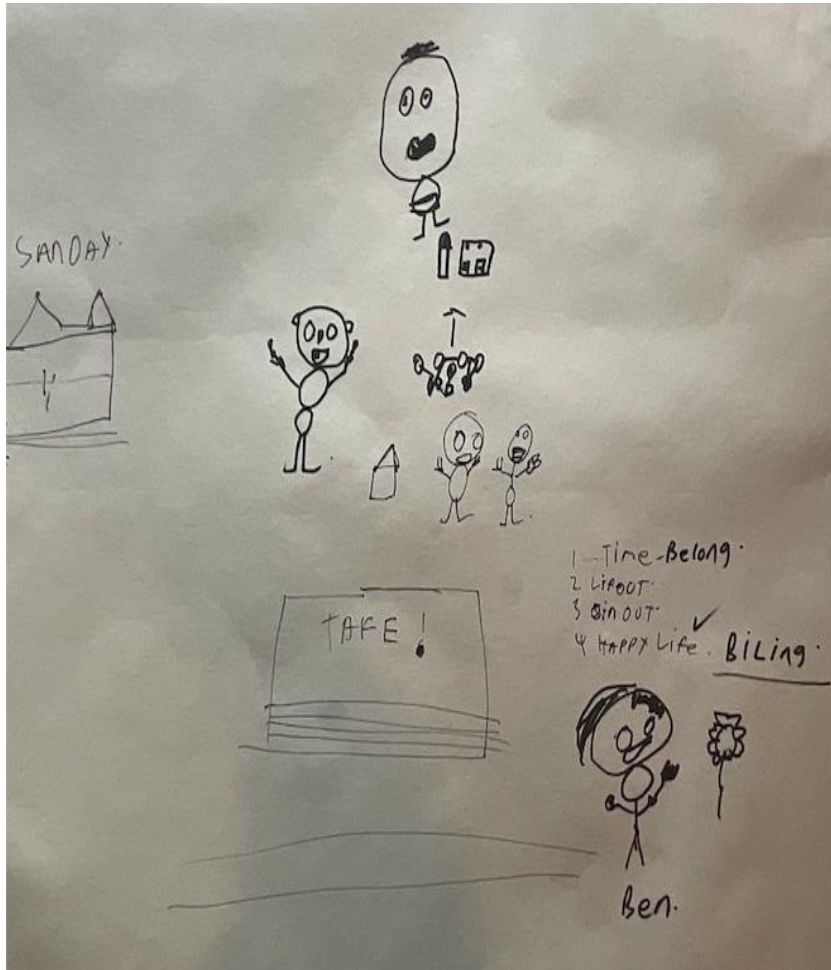


Belonging map: Relational mapping interview
(Lenore)



“Belonging with your culture” PDPE (Shelle)

Findings



Fausto's "Belong Balcony" PDPE (Fausto)

Demonstrating the shadow side of belonging



With baby daughter. PDPE
(Ricky)

Findings: Overarching themes

Overarching themes	Characteristics and sample quotation
Precarious contexts	<p>Belonging is impacted by contingency, uncertainty, and danger in participants daily lives</p> <p>“It’s either, I’ll be killed, or I’ll kill myself” (Ricky)</p> <p>“left to die at 2 weeks old” (Lenore)</p> <p>“getting bashed, getting raped” (Mel)</p>
Finding safety	<p>Belonging is deeply connected to a perception of physical, psychological, and ontological safety</p> <p>“When you belong, you’re protecting yourself” (Fausto)</p> <p>“to be more confident to stand up and access community. Not to be afraid, but also to access community in safe ways.” (Craig)</p> <p>“I feel safe, and I belong” (Lenore)</p>

Findings: Impact of precarious contexts on belonging

Traumatic experience: “It’s like cancer”	Experiences characterised by a real or perceived threat, physical, psychological, emotional, or existential	Early ruptures Bullying Sexual and domestic violence Interpersonal and carceral violence
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Findings: Stigmatised identities

Stigmatised identities	Navigating ascribed identities that imply deficiency and/or deviance	Disability identities Criminalised identities
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Final thoughts

Ricky: I-belong poem

Me not belonging to anything

Belonging means being a part of
something

We didn't really have that feeling of
belonging in my life

wasn't a belonging time, I guess

