

Practice-based Social Work Research: Bringing Together What Belongs Together

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The Netherlands



Content

- Introduction
- HU research group Research Competence
- Research on Methodology for Social Work Research (PhD study by presenter)
- When Motives meet Methods: viewpoints
- PRIME Model and Involvement Matrix

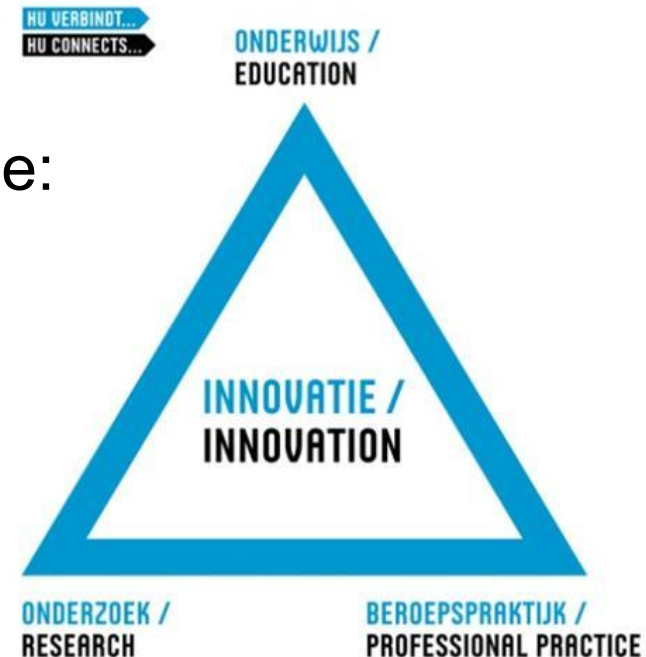
University of applied sciences (UAS) in the Netherlands



- The 38 Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences created a formal research function in 2000
- Among others aim is to bridge the academic – practitioner gap by doing ‘mode-2’ (Gibbons et al. 1994) research:
 - Field problems as starting point of research (Van Aken, 2005)
 - Contributing to practical knowledge as well as formal theory
 - Trans-disciplinary teams (Gibbons et al. 1994)
 - Prove and improve, dissemination during and after research (Garretsen et al, 2007)
 - “The science of the concrete” (Flyvbjerg, 1991)
 - Publication in both scientific *and* professional publications, alongside many other types of outcomes.

Definition practice-based research

- Research in which the research question stems from practice and the results can be directly applied in practice.
- Alongside theory-oriented research, which is aimed at filling gaps in theory.
- Performed in UAS but also in many parts of research universities.
- Three equivalent sources of knowledge: theoretical, practical, experiential
- Practice-based Social Work research;
 - **Contribute to the aims of SW itself!**



HU Research group on Research Competence



Contributing to further professionalization of practice-based research at UAS in the Netherlands.

Lines of research within the research group

- Research competence in context
- Impact
- Transcending boundaries

Orientation on PhD (1)

Gain insight into:

- who you are as a researcher
- what kind of research aim and question is in line with own motives and mission
- which partners and in which form of cooperation

Orientation route on PhD (2)

- Mapping a practice problem in a systematic way and articulate it in terms of a research aim and question.
- Involving partners in the practice from the start and creating sufficient support for the research within the practice concerned.
- Applying quality criteria for practice-based research
- Increasing the impact of research throughout the proces
- Information skills and academic writing skills

Study 2 -

Meeting the Maker

When methods meet motives

“On the rear side you are invited to witness the struggle required to make the front as beautiful as possible. As a viewer, these until now hidden rear sides offer a privileged glimpse into the level of intense work required, as well as revealing the true character of the makers.”

(Scholte, 2015)



When methods meet motives



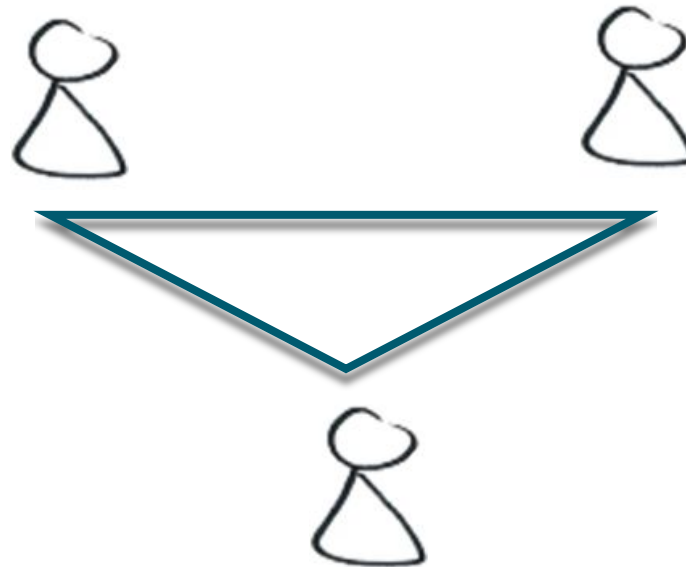
- A Q-methodology study on motives for practice-based research and choices made in the research designs by Social Work researchers at Dutch UAS
- 34 researchers at UAS ranked 37 statements
- Post sorting interviews



Findings - Three Viewpoints

The Substantiator

Scientific underpinning
Scientific requirements
Insights into the effectiveness
Position as independent as possible



The Change Agent

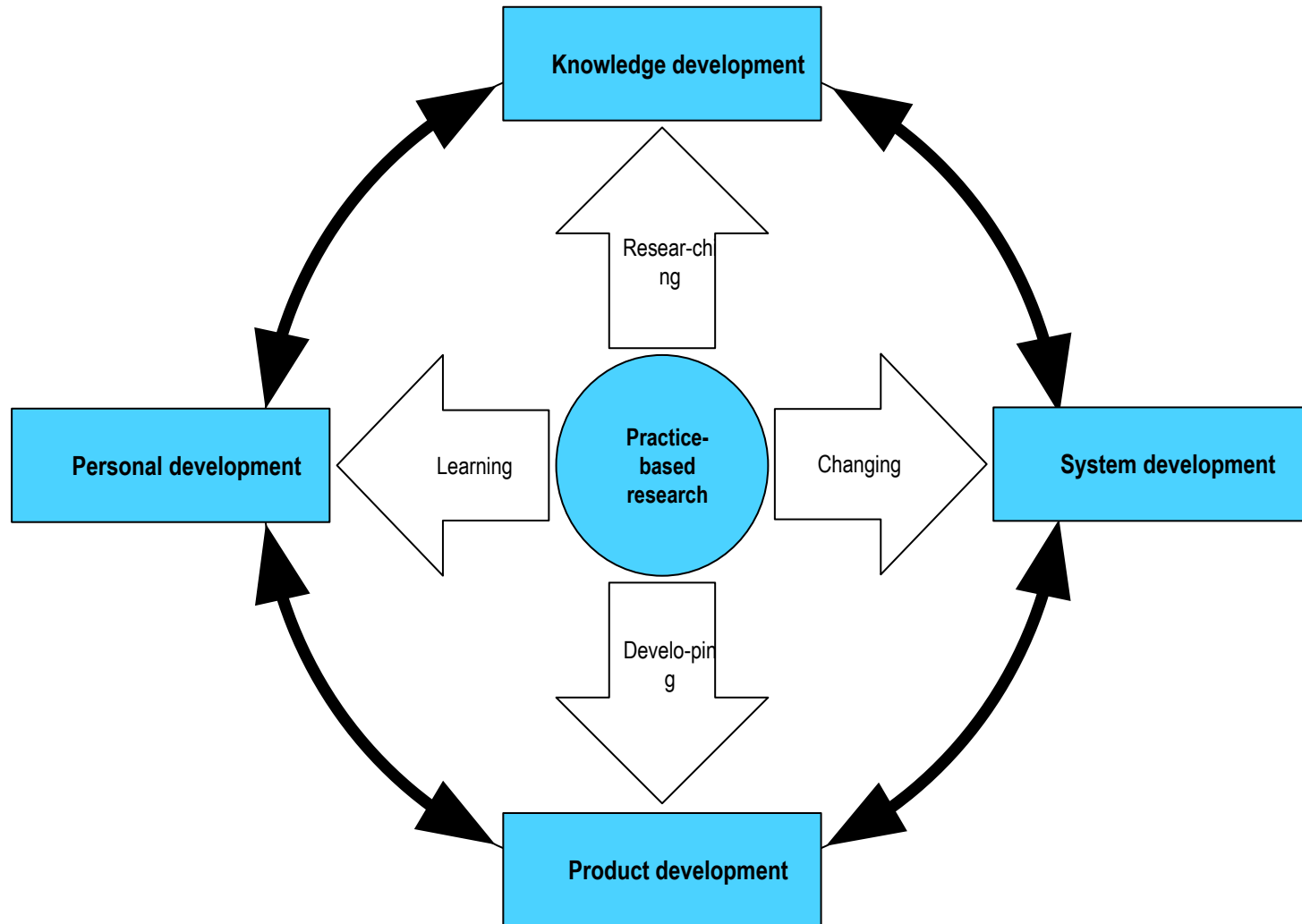
Change/Improve practice
Creating a multi-perspective
Voice to silenced voices

The Enlightener

Own curiosity
All involved can learn
Knowledge development
Multidisciplinarity

PRIME model (Greven en Andriessen, 2019)

Practice-based Research Impact Model for Evaluation



Involvement Matrix

		INVOLVEMENT MATRIX				
		ROLE IN PROJECT				
		Listener	Co-thinker	Advisor	Partner	Decision-maker
		<i>Is given information</i>	<i>Is asked to give opinion</i>	<i>Gives (un)solicited advice</i>	<i>Works as an equal partner</i>	<i>Takes initiative, (final) decision</i>
STAGE OF RESEARCH/PROJECT	Preparation					
	Execution					
Implementation						

Fig. 1 Involvement Matrix; www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix. © Center of Excellence for Rehabilitation Medicine Utrecht, used with permission



Good conversations

- Framework of guiding statements + questions and choices.
- A viewing guide as an ingredient to facilitate good conversation between all stakeholders.



Thank you for your attention!
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