The influence of Time and Context on Social Exclusion from Social Relations in Rural Areas of Wales

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Outline

- Introduction to the model of exclusion from social relations
- Concepts and definitions
- Methods
- Examples of temporal self-comparison and group comparison
- Policy implications
ROSEnet conceptual model of exclusion from social relations

RISK FACTORS:
- PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES (GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARRITAL STATUS)
- BIOLOGICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL RISKS (PHYSICAL AND COGNITIVE HEALTH)
- RETIREMENT, SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND EXCLUSION FROM MATERIAL RESOURCES
- MIGRATION

NEEDED OR DESIRED SOCIAL RELATIONS

ACHIEVED SOCIAL RELATIONS

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ATTRIBUTIONS

INDIVIDUAL WELL BEING:
- QUALITY OF LIFE
- LIFE SATISFACTION
- LONELINESS
- BELONGING

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SOCIAL COHESION

HEALTH AND FUNCTIONING

SOCIO-CULTURAL, SOCIAL STRUCTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS:
- NORMS AND VALUES
- WORKFORCE DEMANDS AND POPULATION TURNOVER
- ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD EXCLUSION

THE PASSAGE OF TIME
Social Relations

The ability of individuals to establish, develop and maintain relationships with family, friends and neighbours. The frequency, closeness and quality of these relationships are important factors to be taken into consideration.

Relativity: Social comparison

- Importance of time and context to understanding exclusion from social resources
- Social comparison theory
  - Temporal self-comparison
  - Group comparison
Research Design

Methods

• **Case Study** – 3 rural areas that have experienced significant change

• **Life history interviews** - 10 older people aged ≥ 60 years in each case study area (n=30)

• **Focus groups** - 10 older people aged ≥ 60 years in each case study area (n=30) to explore changes in the local rural area over time

• **Documentary evidence** – national, local, individual

• **Repeat life history interviews with life history calendars** – record historical developments

Analysis

• Interpretive Phenomenological Approach (IPA)
Case Study Site Selection
Welsh cultural values for social relations

- Strong family bonds and close-knit community
- Locally based services and activities
- Mutual support and reciprocity
- Resourcefulness
- Welsh language, chapel, mining & farming
- Collectivism
Temporal self-comparison: views of the past

And of course we had allotments. We were self-sustaining. We always had a good table. I can never remember being hungry. (Area A, M 86 years)

I can remember my childhood and I loved it. There was hardship naturally. Not just for me but for all the families. Nobody had more than anyone else but everyone shared. People lived in the valley and stayed in the valley.” (Rural Area B, M 81 Years)

It was a tight community and everybody practically knew everybody else. We knew what was going on with most people and Welsh was largely spoken (Area B, F 74 years).

You had the library below the workman’s hall and then you had the YMCA where they had dancing. When you think of what we did in this small community it was amazing. We haven’t got any of that now. (Area A, F, 71 Years)
Temporal self-comparison: present views

You know I don’t know half of them who live up here. I used to know everybody... and they don’t talk or look out for you anymore. People look out for themselves much more.
(Area B, M, 87 years)

I think the coming of the television altered a lot of things... activities like cinema and dancing declined.
(Area A, F, 78 years)

I think the introduction of the car is the downside because people go out of the valley to shop now to supermarkets and all that.
(Area A, F, 79 years)

There is a sense of community. Not so much in the new estates but in these old streets here we are very community orientated. We are here for everybody, we will help everybody.
(Area C, F, 82 years)
Group comparison

Another thing we did when we were engaged was we sat down and made a rug [...]. You wouldn’t see couples doing that now would you? They’d be playing games on the telly. But we made homes. Now they go out and buy things and it’s a throw-away society.
(Area A, M, 80 years)

Well the young people from the area can’t afford to live here can they? We are losing generation after generation
(Area C, M, 72 years)

I don’t mind people moving in but they must be part of the community, please. OK, they don’t speak Welsh but they don’t learn it. But it’s our way that is changing, you see, not theirs. It’s detrimental for the language and detrimental for the chapels.
(Area C, F, 79 years)
Policy Implications

- Industrial/agricultural/housing policy decisions impact on kin and non-kin mobility, exclusion from social relations and ultimately community cohesion.

- Intergenerational strategies could focus on fostering an understanding of different worldviews and social participation e.g. reimagining historical values (e.g. proximal family → reducing carbon footprint) could improve social connections between older people/younger people/in-migrants, and impact positively on other policy agendas.

- Health and social care agendas that expect kin/non-kin care in the community need to understand the implications of exclusion from social relations for public sector services.
Diolch yn Fawr!

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