University of Brighton/Boingboing Partnership

Co-producing resilience research to address inequalities

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Overview

• The University of Brighton/boingboing partnership
• **Why** take an inequalities approach to resilience?
• **How** we take an inequalities approach
• What it **looks** like
• **Conclusions**
UoB/boingboing partnership

• Boingboing established as CIC by Prof Angie Hart and Kim Aumman in 2005
• Vehicle for for co produced resilience research and knowledge exchange
• Aim - to model, promote and deliver co-produced resilience research and practice through effective knowledge exchange, through an equalities approach
• Activity based on Resilient Therapy approach and Resilience Framework
• “Beating the odds and changing the odds”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC APPROACHES</th>
<th>BASICS</th>
<th>BELONGING</th>
<th>LEARNING</th>
<th>COPING</th>
<th>CORE SELF</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good enough housing</td>
<td>Find somewhere for the child/YP to belong</td>
<td>Make school/college life work as well as possible</td>
<td>Understanding boundaries and keeping within them</td>
<td>Instil a sense of hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enough money to live</td>
<td>Help child/YP understand their place in the world</td>
<td>Engage mentors for children/YP</td>
<td>Being brave</td>
<td>Support the child/YP to understand other people’s feelings</td>
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<td>Being safe</td>
<td>Tap into good influences</td>
<td>Map out career or life plan</td>
<td>Solving problems</td>
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<td>Access &amp; transport</td>
<td>The more healthy relationships the better</td>
<td>Help the child/YP to organise her/himself</td>
<td>Putting on rose-tinted glasses</td>
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<td>Healthy diet</td>
<td>Take what you can from relationships where there is some hope</td>
<td>Calming down &amp; self-soothing</td>
<td>Fostering their interests</td>
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<td>Exercise and fresh air</td>
<td>Get together people the child/YP can count on</td>
<td>Help the child/YP to take responsibility for her/himself</td>
<td>Help the child/YP to know her/himself</td>
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<td>Enough sleep</td>
<td>Responsibilities &amp; obligations</td>
<td>Remember tomorrow is another day</td>
<td>Foster their talents</td>
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<td>Play &amp; leisure</td>
<td>Focus on good times and places</td>
<td>Highlight achievements</td>
<td>Lean on others when necessary</td>
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<td>Being free from prejudice &amp; discrimination</td>
<td>Make sense of where child/YP has come from</td>
<td>Develop life skills</td>
<td>Have a laugh</td>
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<td>Predict a good experience of someone or something new</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Make friends and mix with other children/YPs</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOBLE TRUTHS</th>
<th>ACCEPTING</th>
<th>CONSERVING</th>
<th>COMMITMENT</th>
<th>ENLISTING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://WWW.BOINGBOING.ORG.UK">WWW.BOINGBOING.ORG.UK</a></td>
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Why an inequalities approach to resilience?

• There has been an increasingly ecological approach to resilience over its life span

• However, criticisms of the study of resilience, and its application to social policy, remain...
Critiques of a focus on resilience

• “A focus on resilience cannot adequately explain inequalities in [health] and wellbeing and may serve to disguise or distract from analysis of social structures that result in and maintain inequalities in power, wealth and privilege” (Friedli, 2012)
• “the individualised [...] notion of resilience [...] obscures historical and more recent structural inequalities that are fundamental barriers to the wellbeing of the poor and blames and penalises them for what are [...] deemed to be their failings, deficits and unhealthy dependencies” (Bottrell, 2012)
• “putting a sticking plaster over the wound caused by macro-structural inequalities in power and resources” (Taylor, Mathers, Atfield & Parry, 2011)
Our inequalities approach

• Based on pragmatist philosophy – a post neo-liberal approach to resilience
• An overarching critical approach that acknowledges importance of individual resilience, within context of systems change and addressing social inequalities that create and maintain adversity contexts
• Brings resilience research and practice development together with activism explicitly to unite resilience work with social justice values

“Resilience is overcoming adversity, whilst also potentially subtly altering, or even dramatically transforming, (aspects of) that adversity”

or in other words:

“Beating the odds whilst also changing the odds”.

How we take an inequalities approach

1. By targeting our research to enable greater understanding of issues for people whose needs are currently under represented in research literature
2. By using co-productive methods that amplify the voice of lived experience in research and knowledge exchange
3. By focusing on social transformation across eco-systems
4. By embracing sustainability - encouraging involvement of those with lived experience after research project end

A democratic learning community (development) approach
Addressing inequalities (changing the odds)

Co-production

Boingboing/UoB Partnership

Research

Respect

Diversity/Inclusion

Knowledge exchange
University of Brighton/Boingboing partnership – a community of interests and experience with a common aim

Academic research

Lived experience

Practitioner

Co-researcher

Core Boingboingers
Examples of our recent work

- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Patterns of resilience among young people in a community affected by drought: Historical and contextual perspectives. 2016
- Imagine project – international partnership research on resilience approaches
- Headstart Blackpool - £10 million Lottery funded 5 year strategic programme 2016
- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Co-designing Resilience.
- Fiona Deane (private philanthropist), Co-developing resilience tools 2016
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): IMAGINE: The social, historical, cultural and democratic context of civic engagement: imagining different communities and making them happen 2013 to 2017
- European Commission EU grant, STYLE project 2013 to 2016
What our equalities research approach looks like in practice...
Assisting with delivery as trained co-researchers/peer researchers
Co-creating resilience promoting materials
Embedding evidence based resilience practice across a whole local system
Influencing research direction, social policy and practice - promoting opportunities for agency & social activism
Conclusions

• Boingboing is vehicle for promoting an equalities approach to research through university/community co-production
• Research focus includes individual resilience, within context of addressing social inequalities that create and maintain adversity contexts
• Brings resilience research and practice development together with activism explicitly to unite resilience work with social justice values
• Synergy between diverse knowledge, skills and experiences and multiple identities
Co-researching drought in South Africa blog
May 9, 2017 | Blog, Drought project
References


Website: www.boingboing.org.uk

Blog about our work with South African colleagues: http://www.boingboing.org.uk/co-researching-drought-south-africa-blog/

Short film on resilience: TEDx: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPUzjyA0QK4

More about the work of Boingboing through the eyes of young people: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH_OXhKdWhQ