

# Person-centredness, relationships and meaning making

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‘After six months in certain hospitals, there are ways in which psychiatric nurses are no longer like ordinary people. Their attitude to mental illness changes - as it does to old age, to cruelty, to people’s needs, and to dying. It is as if they become numbed to these things.’

(Sans Everything 1967)

diagnosed

diagnosed

marginalised

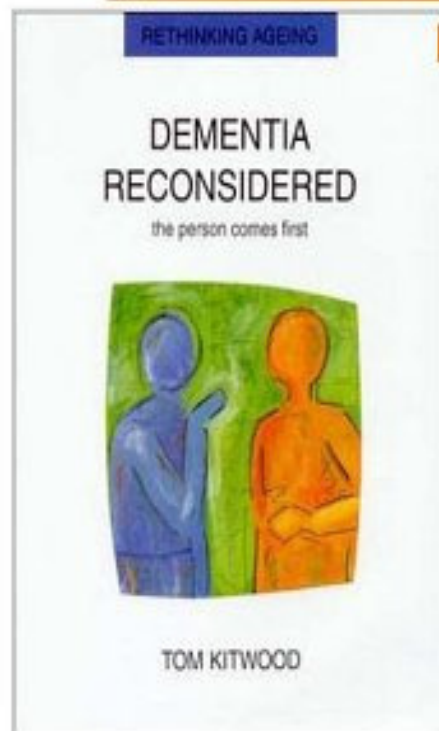
diagnosed

marginalised

institutionalised

Person-centred care

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**Person-centred care**

Person with DEMENTIA

# **Person-centred care**

Person with DEMENTIA

**PERSON** with dementia

dementia =

[biomedical factors]

+

[social/psychological factors]

Dementia =

Physical Health +

Neurological Impairment +

Personality +

Biography +

Social Psychology

‘Personhood’ is the central idea in person-centred care.

“a standing or a status that is bestowed on one human being, by another in the context of relationship and social being”

‘Dementia Reconsidered’ Tom Kitwood

# malignant social psychologies

- Disempowerment
- Imposition
- Disruption
- Objectification
- Stigmatisation
- Ignoring
- Banishment
- Mockery
- Withholding
- Outpacing
- Infantilisation
- Labelling
- Disparagement
- Accusation
- Treachery
- Invalidation

# positive person work

- Warmth
- Holding
- Relaxed pace
- Respect
- Acceptance
- Facilitation
- Collaboration
- Recognition
- Celebration
- Acknowledgement
- Genuineness
- Validation
- Empowerment
- Enabling
- Including
- Belonging

problems with person-centred care

# problems with person-centred care

does not fully represent :

family carers and dementia care workers

# problems with person-centred care

does not fully represent:

family carers and dementia care workers

the embodied and bodily nature of dementia

# problems with person-centred care

does not fully represent:

family carers and dementia care workers

the embodied and bodily nature of dementia

the two-way nature of communication in dementia care

# Relationship centred care

Recognition that there is often three people or agencies involved in the provision of dementia care: the person with dementia, their family carer(s) and their paid-for carer(s) – the dementia care triad.

# Relationship centred care

Recognition that there is often three people or agencies involved in the provision of dementia care: the person with dementia, their family carer(s) and their paid-for carer(s) – the dementia care triad.

Sensitivity to the social relationships that occur between each of these participants and give rise to their identity and experience of dementia care – as the person with dementia, family caregiver or a paid-for carer.

# Relationship centred care

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# the senses framework – mike nolan and colleagues

- A sense of purpose - opportunities to engage in purposeful activities or to have a clear set of goals to aspire to;
- A sense of fulfilment - achieving meaningful or valued goals and feeling satisfied with one's efforts;
- A sense of significance - to feel that you matter, and that you are valued as a person

# the senses framework – mike nolan and colleagues

- A sense of security - of feeling safe and receiving or delivering competent and sensitive care;
- A sense of continuity - the recognition of biography, using the past to contextualise the present;
- A sense of belonging - opportunities to form meaningful relationships or feel part of a team.

Personhood is a standing or a status that is bestowed on one human being, by another in the context of relationship and social being

‘Dementia Reconsidered’ Tom Kitwood

Implicit in Kitwood's understanding of personhood is the view that being a PERSON with dementia is just a one way process: from others to people with dementia

Humanistic: putting humanity and the interests  
of the person first

‘Dementia Reconsidered: the person comes first’

Humanistic: putting humanity and the interests of the person first

Existentialist: highlighting questions of existence rather than essence and the personal struggle to gain a meaning to one's life

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Existentialist: highlighting questions of existence rather than essence and the personal struggle to gain a meaning to one's life

**'In day to day interplay with persons with dementia it is inescapable to address existential struggles and innate Issues.' Holly Queen-Daugherty 2002**

Humanistic: putting humanity and the interests of the person first

Existentialist: highlighting questions of existence rather than essence and the personal struggle to gain a meaning to one's life

Christian: people are created in the image of God, *imago Dei* and are relational and thus there is a deep vein of co-creativity in people through which they relate to others and identity is displayed and gained

insiderness

living in a personal world  
that carries a sense of how  
things are perceived and  
felt

people with dementia  
sharing stories about their  
life perhaps through Art  
Therapy

agency

experience yourself as  
making choices and being  
generally held accountable  
for one's actions

people with dementia  
making choices about the  
sort of care and support  
they want

uniqueness

actualizing a self that is  
unique which can never be  
reduced to a list of general  
characteristics

people with dementia  
helped to display their  
strengths and  
distinctiveness

togetherness

in community

participating as a respected  
member of a family, small  
group or care setting

sense-making

care for the meaning  
of things, events and  
experiences

people with dementia  
participating in story-telling  
activities or art therapy and  
reading/watching media

personal journey

on a journey

people with dementia talking  
about past events and  
experiences, perhaps  
through reminiscence  
therapy, spiritual  
reminiscence, and art  
therapy

sense of place

come from a particular place  
where the feeling of at-  
homeness becomes reality

people with dementia  
maintaining contact with  
aspect of their past through  
personal belongings and  
photos

embodiment

live within the fragile limits  
of human embodiment

people with dementia  
helped to maintain control of  
their body and enabled to  
use their body to express  
their emotions

creativity helps people with dementia affirm  
their personhood

creativity helps people with dementia  
understand what is happening to them

creativity supports the development of recovery  
approaches within dementia care

‘unique process of changing one’s attitudes, values, feelings, goals, skills, and/or roles. It is a way of living a satisfying, hopeful, and contributing life even with limitations caused by illness. Recovery involves the development of new meaning and purpose in one’s life as one grows beyond the catastrophic effects of mental illness (Antony 1993, p. 15).’