



Art based research: an exploration of social work facing climate change in the North East of Scotland.

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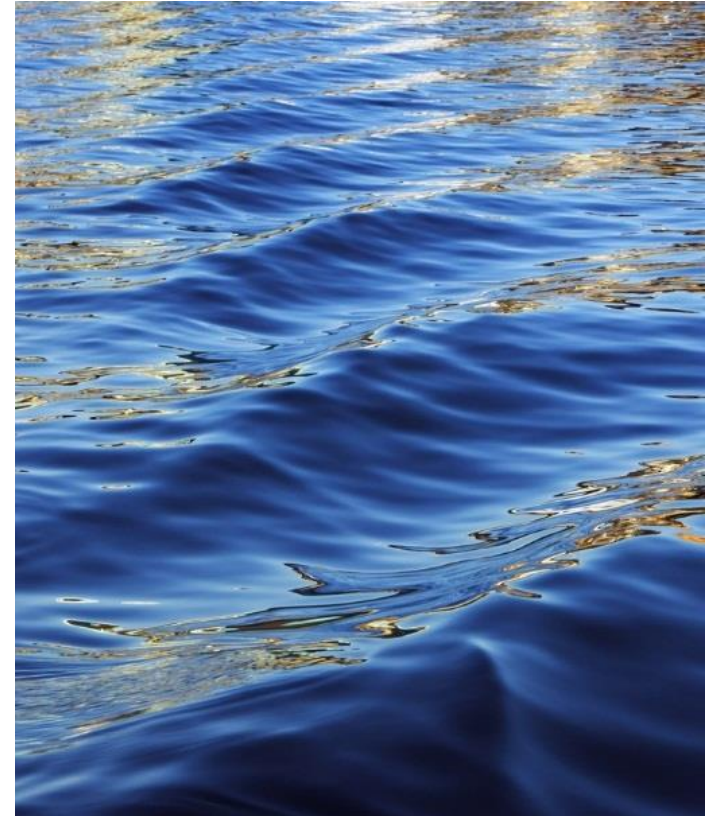
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Art based research an exploration of Social work facing climate change in the North East of Scotland

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The aim of this research is twofold:

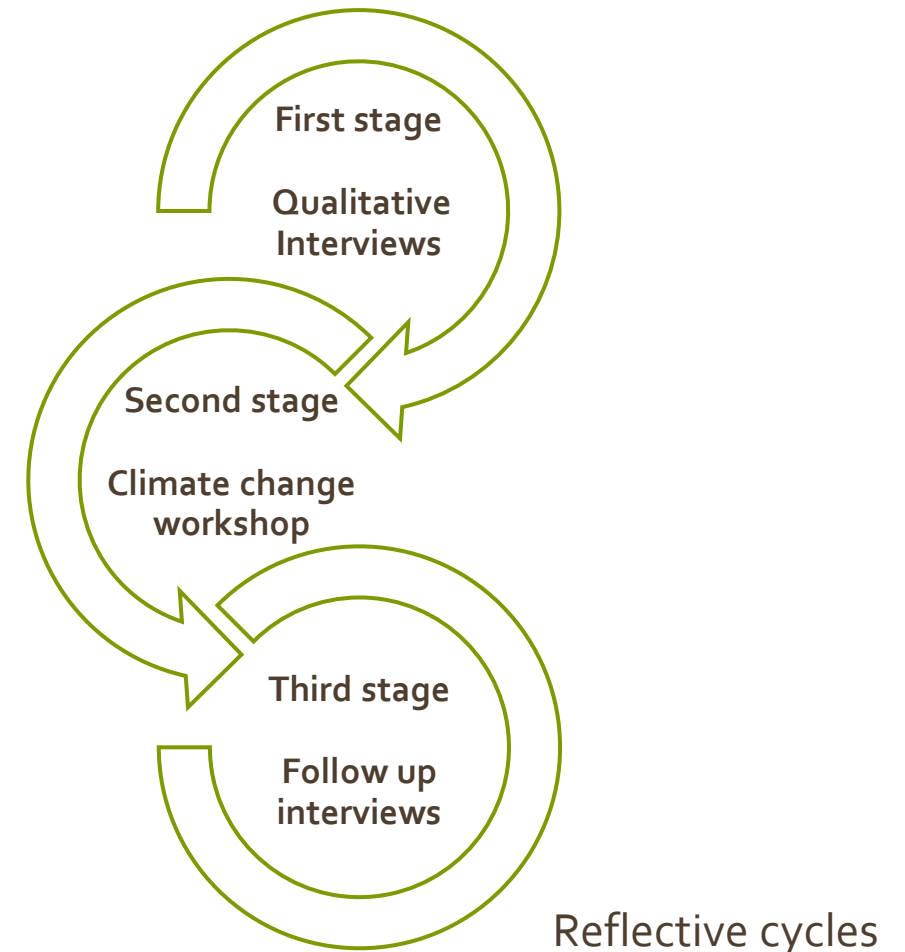


1. We wish to explore the level of awareness social work practitioners have about climate change and its potential impact on their profession.
2. We want to raise awareness and share knowledge about climate change and use coproduction as a tool to consider solutions.

Methodology

The project was split into 3 steps

- 17 Semi structured interview with qualified social workers which started with an art-based component
- Workshop
 - focus group 15 at Aberdeen University with the school of biological sciences, Rowett institute and NESCAN
- Follow up interview – still in progress





Using art to encourage narrative

Art as a communicative tool





Art based

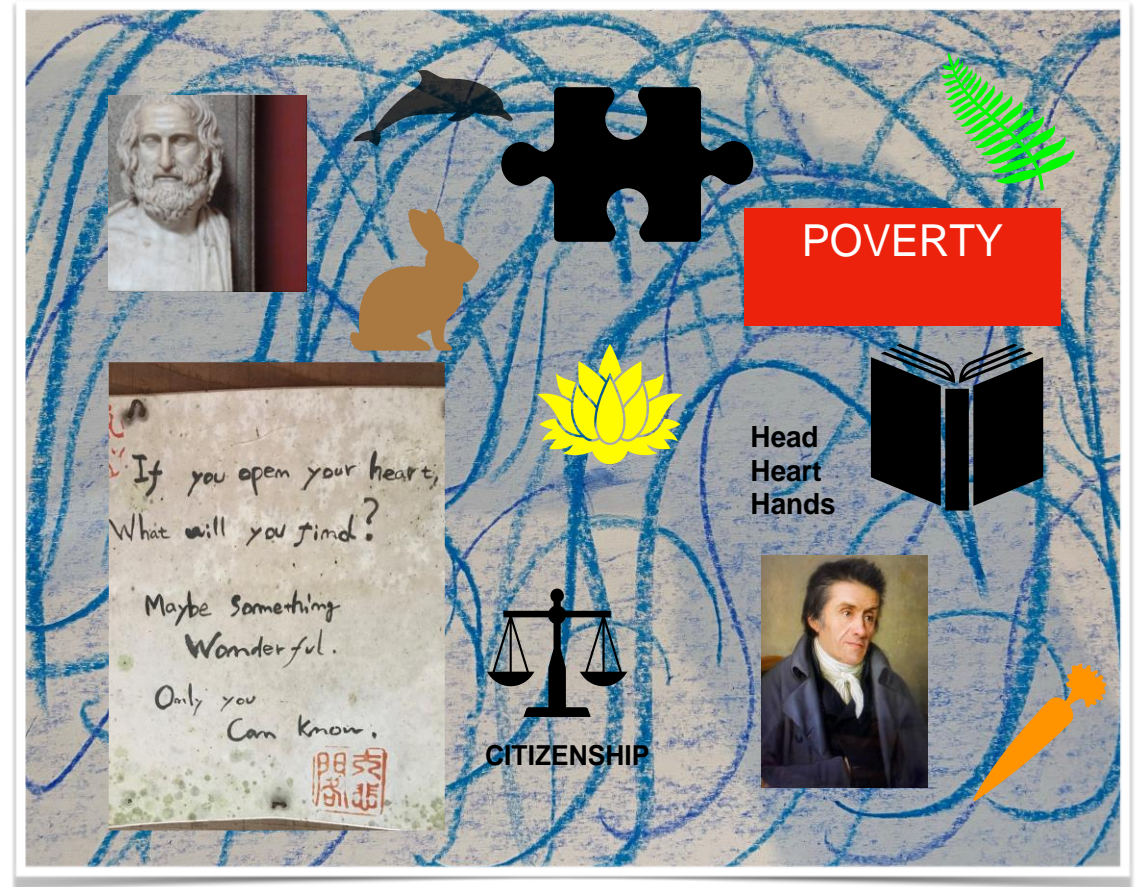
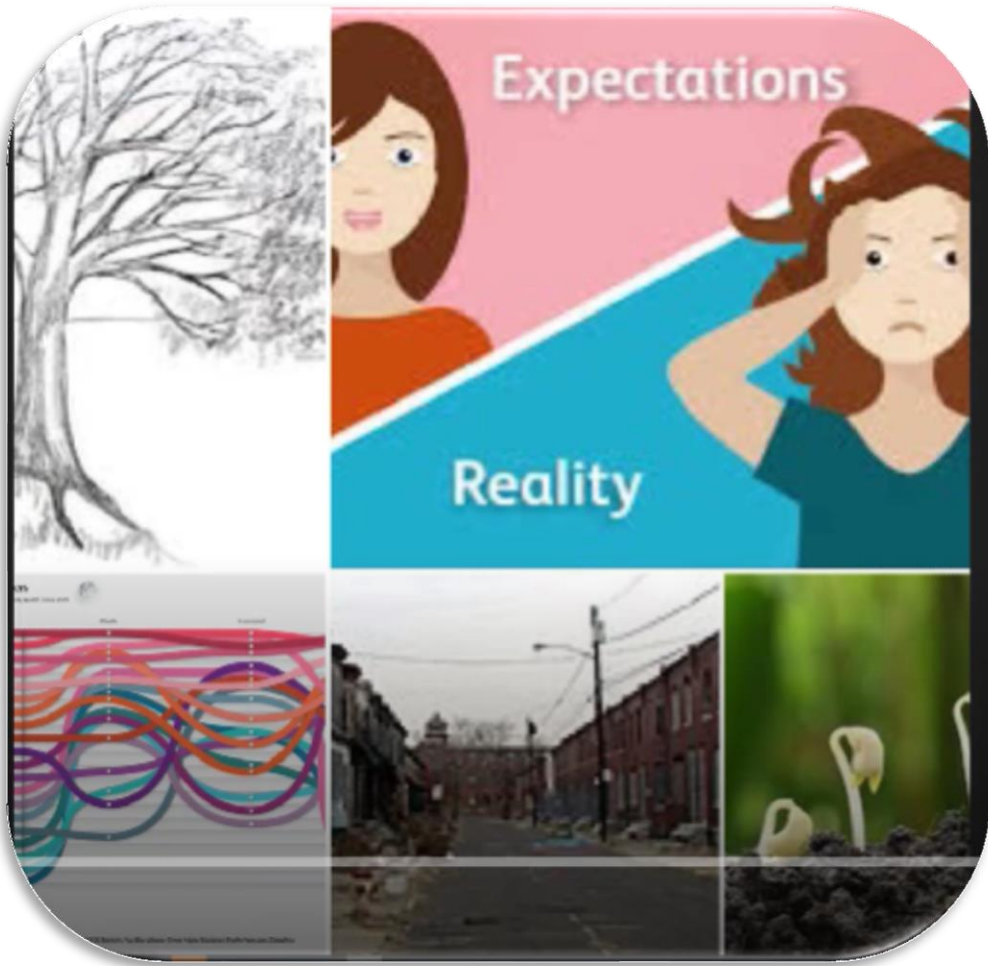
Starting off with the art/image photos – limited direction of what they wanted to share

Images of personal experiences

Visual language – a narrative within the image

Utilitarian approach - by using online images

Narrative with the images



A personal experience of climate change



Utilitarian approach





Initial Findings

What have we learnt so far

Initial findings

Anxiety about understanding	Anxiety about future	Searching for SW role
<p>How to approach to subject</p> <p>Lack of knowledge</p> <p>Lack of engagement in subject</p> <p>Overwhelmed by immediate priorities</p> <p>Organisational barriers</p> <p>Helplessness</p>	<p>Lack of preparedness</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>Food poverty</p> <p>Fuel poverty</p> <p>Flooding</p> <p>Storms</p> <p>Decreasing opportunities to connect with nature</p>	<p>Support to initiate change</p> <p>SW education</p> <p>Knowledge of solutions</p> <p>Collectiveness rather than individual responsibility</p> <p>Is this a profession that can enact change</p>

Anxiety about understanding



How to approach to subject



Lack of knowledge



Lack of engagement



Overwhelmed



Organisational



Helplessness

"I think not having enough knowledge or understanding about how we can facilitate change..."

"...there's so many other issues that are going on..."

"It is the government in bodies who need to be taking action, they've done a fantastic job at trying to blame individuals..."

"we don't have the time and energy to do it, to be completely frank, you know on the frontline we're just trying to... you know, Firefight all at the time"

Anxiety about the future



Preparedness

Housing

Poverty

Food Poverty

Fuel poverty

Flooding/
storms

Loss of nature

"...at some point it's all gonna blow up and we will have been so unprepared for what's about to happen"

"...ice melting and obviously climate change, the land is shifting, where I'm going to house the people?"

"what people are worried about managing is food, gas ...the amount of times I go and pick up food parcels ...because there's no money, the amount of times I go to charities asking for fuel vouchers for families to heat their home"

"...green spaces that families locally have to use ... actually they're pretty limited"

Searching for the social work role



Support to Change

"nobody seems to be really talking about it you know it's like never a priority as it because unless it affects us here and now immediately people just don't"

SW Education

"there's so much to talk about, structural oppression, structural inequality. Yet environmental factors weren't really considered in that [education]"

Solutions

"We work with people and actually we should be part of the bigger kind of environmental factors because I suppose that's part of our job, isn't it? Creating kind of a better living environment for all"

Collectiveness

Is this a profession that can enact change?

"There's a definite role in and influence in planning, definitely in policy. And being part of those discussions "

References

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