

Co-Production of Creative Therapy Provision: Plan for A Mixed-Methods, Qualitative Enquiry

What is Co-Production?

The Co-production Network for Wales [no date, para. 2] define co-production of public services as follows:

Co-production is an asset-based approach to public services that enables people providing and people receiving services to share power and responsibility, and to work together in equal, reciprocal and caring relationships. It creates opportunities for people to access support when they need it, and to contribute to social change.

Inclusion Criteria

Field sites must meet the follow criteria:

1. At least one Arts Therapist involved in the setting;
2. Meet the Co-production Network for Wales [no date, para. 2] definition of co-production included in What is Co-Production?;
3. Within an hour's travel time from Cardiff.

Interview participants shall have experience of work which meets the first and second inclusion criteria. They do not need to meet criterion 3.

Why these Data Collection Methods?

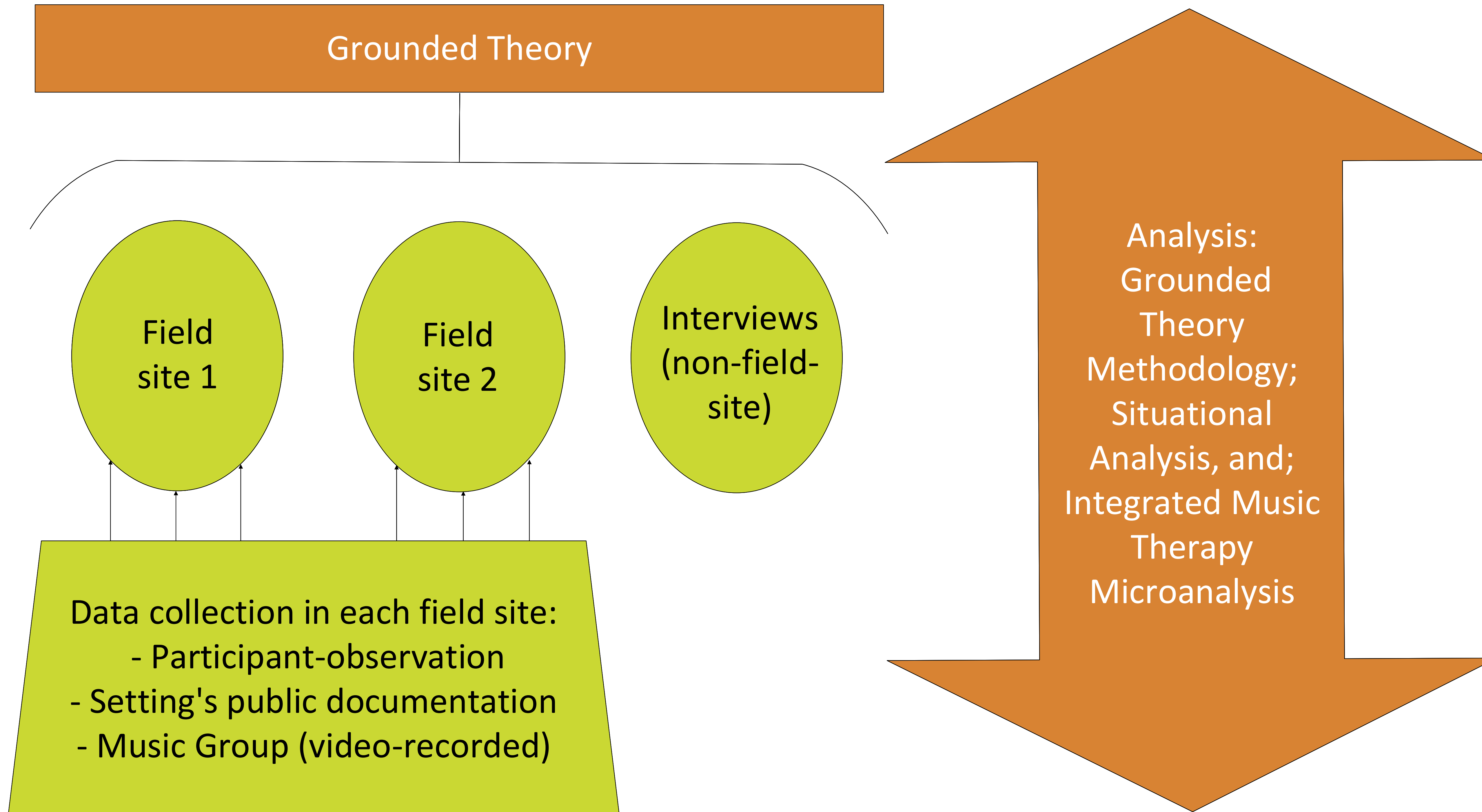
Participant observation will give me a window into day-to-day practice in a site, into how people do co-production there.

Participant-observation and video-recorded music-making are not limited to verbal data; Arts therapies are often recommended for people for whom words can pose an obstacle. Using methods which allow for non-verbal participation makes research more accessible for such people.

The use of a video-recorded music group also means that the data being collected reflects the disciplines the research concerns, following McNiff's (1998) call for research methods to correspond to what is being studied. I will microanalyse the video as an example of co-production in action, examining the interpersonal relationships upon which co-production is built.

There are few co-produced arts therapies settings. I will include interview data so my theory is grounded on a broader foundation, including interviewees based further away, who have previously been involved in co-production, or whose settings cannot host research.

Grounded Theory



Why Grounded Theory Methodology?

Grounded theory methodology (Glaser and Strauss 1967) aims to build theory from data, rather than imposing it from above. This democratic take on theorising from the grass roots upward is in keeping with the spirit of co-production. My reflexive lens means the project is more in line with constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz 2014) than its positivist counterparts.

Co-production involves the coming together of people with divergent knowledges and experiences. To understand how these relate and interact I will use Situational Analysis, developed by Clarke (2005) as an extension of grounded theory which maps the situations in which we live, know, act and research.

Grounded theory methodology allows the researcher to use whichever form of data is present in the research context. I can, therefore, include arts-based data to mirror arts-based therapy practice.

References:
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Why Research Co-Production?

Inclusion: Co-production is one potential avenue for building more inclusive and equitable provision. Co-production honours the principle of "nothing about us without us" (Charlton 1998), and respects both lived and professional experience.

Research: Co-production is beginning to attract scholarly attention in arts therapies, including Pickard (2020), Melhuish, Grady & Holland (2019), Nelligan, Hayes & McCaffrey (2020), Springham & Xenophantes (2021), and Myerscough and Williams (2022).

Policy: Co-production features prominently in Welsh Government (2016, p. 3) literature on Prudent Healthcare. NHS England (2022) in collaboration with the Department for Health and Social Care also refer to co-production.

Potential Outputs

Potential conference papers and publications include:

- Theory developed;
- Case studies of field sites;
- Integrating musical data in Grounded Theory Methodology;
- Exhibitions co-produced with field site participants.