

Original Article

Deconstructing Caring and Authentic Measurement

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Abstract

Background: This paper explores a deconstruction of care through looking at hermeneutic methods and their role in a 'stripping back' or deconstruction of the processes and outcomes of care. The societal structures in which care is delivered and the undoubted 'power' operating downwards on both carer's and cared for is often overlooked in current research.

Methodology: It is proposed that Foucauldian discourse analysis could be a useful tool in the deconstruction of care. Further methods based in interpretative phenomenology such as Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis could further deconstruct what it means to care at a more individual level within this wider societal context of caring.

Results: More authentic measures would be obtained and measures based inherently in the wider 'lived experience' of carers and those they care for, moreover phenomenological analysis in itself could produce more authentic measures of care, through its emphasis on individual interpretation and 'meaning' and how this operates in the caring scenario.

Conclusions: This process of deconstruction in order to get a more authentic picture of and measures of the meaning of caring would be useful in the training of management and front line care staff.

Keywords: Discourse/s, Power, Deconstruction, Phenomenology.