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Stories of Hope or Hopeful stories? Reflections on Ethical Dilemmas in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation and Physical Activity

Toni L. Williams

Brett Smith

Anthony Papathomas



Ethical considerations

1. Procedural ethics
 - Formal approval university ethics committee
2. Ethics in practice
 - Process that requires on-going maintenance and reflection



Researching in the field



Culturally responsive relational reflexive ethics

Culturally responsive ethics

- Understand culture in which you are embedded

Relational ethics

- Values dignity, mutual respect and connectedness

Reflexive ethics

- Sensitive, adaptive, acknowledge power imbalances, be transparent

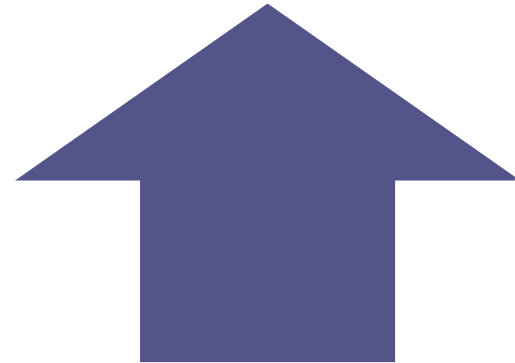
Hope



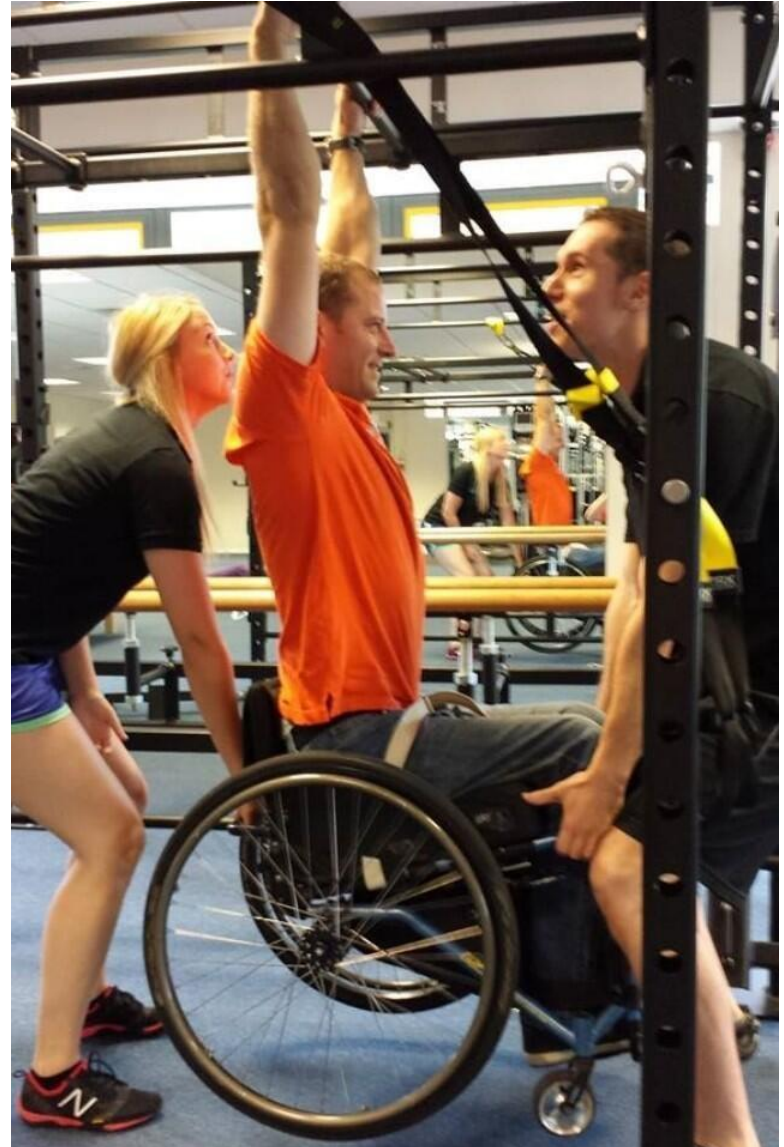
**Realistic
expectation**



**False
hope**



Ethics in practice...



I'd love to walk out of here... I don't know, I'm a firm believer in never give up, you never know what's around the corner. Obviously I know it would be a miracle to get up and walk one day, just to even move my arms, get my hands working or something would be great. But never say never. I've seen people come and go who couldn't do certain things, and in years to come all of a sudden things started kicking in. So if I can keep the training up, and keep my body used to doing certain things then I'll always believe that something might happen. *But if I didn't have that belief, I don't think I want to be here really that would be the end of it.* So, I have to have that belief.

Implications...

1. Potential responses – not solutions
2. Look at ethical dilemmas through a certain lens
3. Flexible and open to studying ethical issues from participant perspectives
4. Balance negotiating the researcher's desire to gain rich descriptions, whilst caring for the participants' well-being

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