

Bringing the researcher into the room;

new materialist entanglements of the research team when analysing 26 interviews exploring the emotional wellbeing of parents of learning-disabled children and young people.

UKCP Conference

Saturday 8 June, 15:05 – 15:25

Presenters:

- Dr Caroline Frizell (Principal Investigator)
- Juliet Diener
- Dr Mark Taylor
- Nicola Weston

Research towards living in the world differently.

Introduction

Goldsmiths, UoL, in collaboration with *icandance*.

Methodology rooted in diffractive meeting places:

- Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)
- New materialism
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

We invited 26 parents of learning-disabled children and young people to tell us about their own wellbeing as a parent over the years, given the current cost of living crisis that has come on the back of an era of austerity after the 2008 financial crash and the COVID-19 pandemic.

'The playground is a very...lonely place for a parent with a special needs child, you're isolated and made to feel the alien...I did see parents who...were isolated and I felt for them because I knew... what they were going through...(p)robably feeling terrible inside, when all these other children are getting invites and their child isn't, when all the other parents are talking about their latest adventure with their child and they're just silent. Friends that we had ... when we didn't realise there were any issues with our daughter, you know, we would go on holiday, ... have people round for supper, it was one happy family. And then ... as problems started to unravel very quickly people just dropped us because they didn't know what to do. I'm not blaming them at all it's just they were embarrassed...so they withdrew, the more they withdrew meant that someone is isolated at the time when they need support the most. Then you put on 2008, the austerity (measures), with services just decreasing, social workers coming and going at the drop of a hat... a ... blame culture ... a lot of the time was them trying to just cover themselves and not make any actual decisions or be brave or to take risks. ...so you would see them, they would come quite often quite young with that real hope in their eyes of wanting to make a difference, six months later (there was) a different person (it was) demoralising for them as well... because there was this real lack of cash. ... It was...wicked the way that some of the press... vilified elements of society, probably the most vulnerable ... Everyone needs a fall person and we were just part of that fall ground, you know, ... yes, I think post-2008 it was a very sorry time in this country.' **(parent interview July 2023)**

Entanglements

Knowledge became created from the diffractive meeting places between the stories that we listened to, our professional allegiances, our lived-experience and wider socio-political discourses.





Caroline's story

Earth Wanderer

Carer

Dance Movement Psychotherapist

Goldsmiths, University of London

Juliet's story

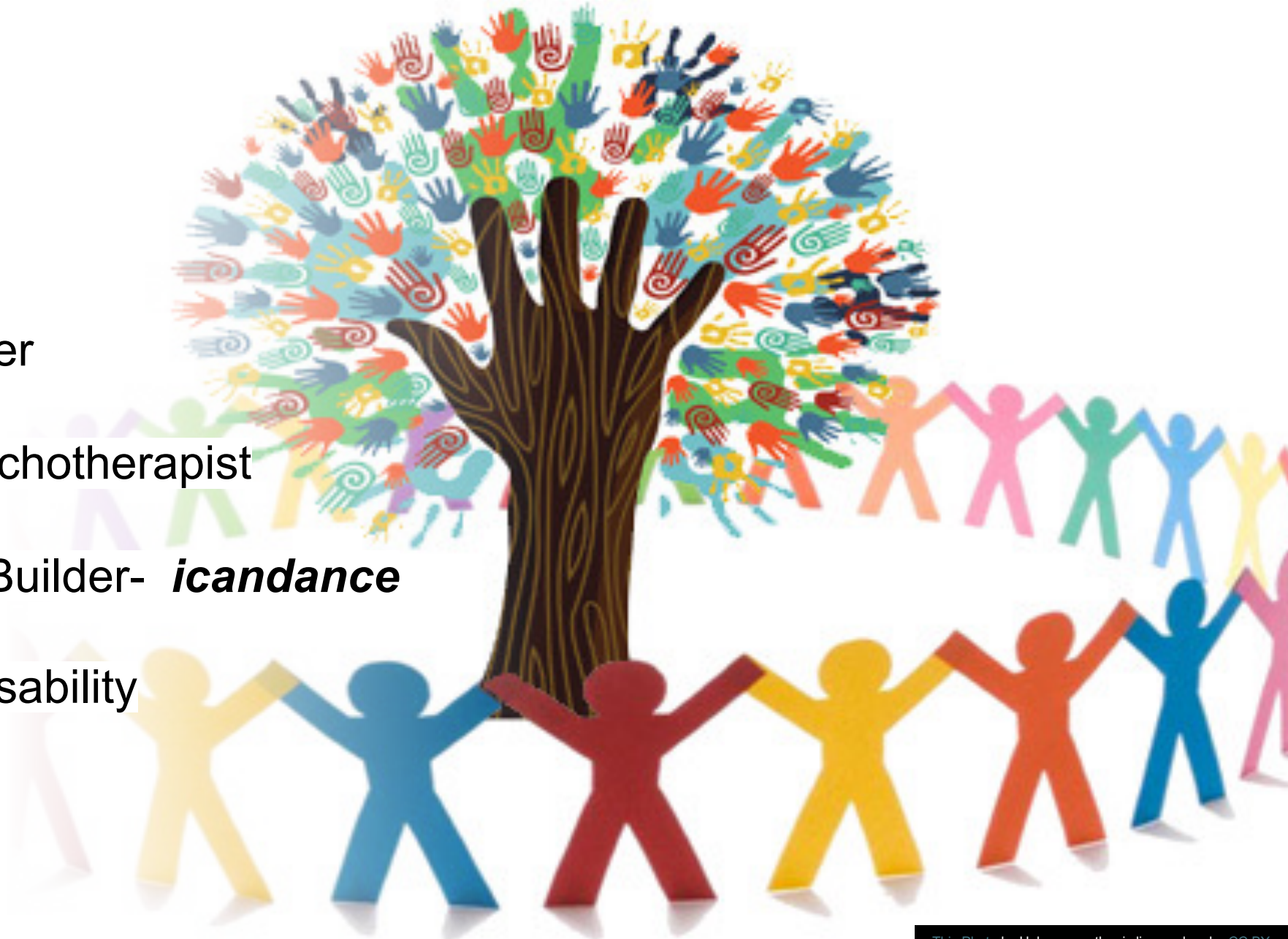
Rainbow Nation Dancer

Dance Movement Psychotherapist

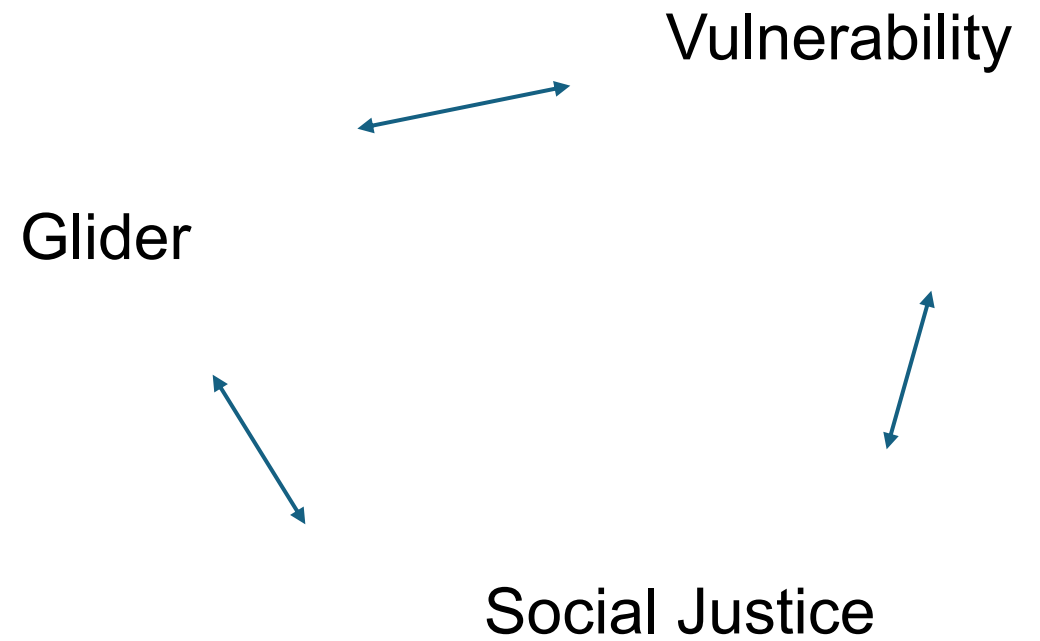
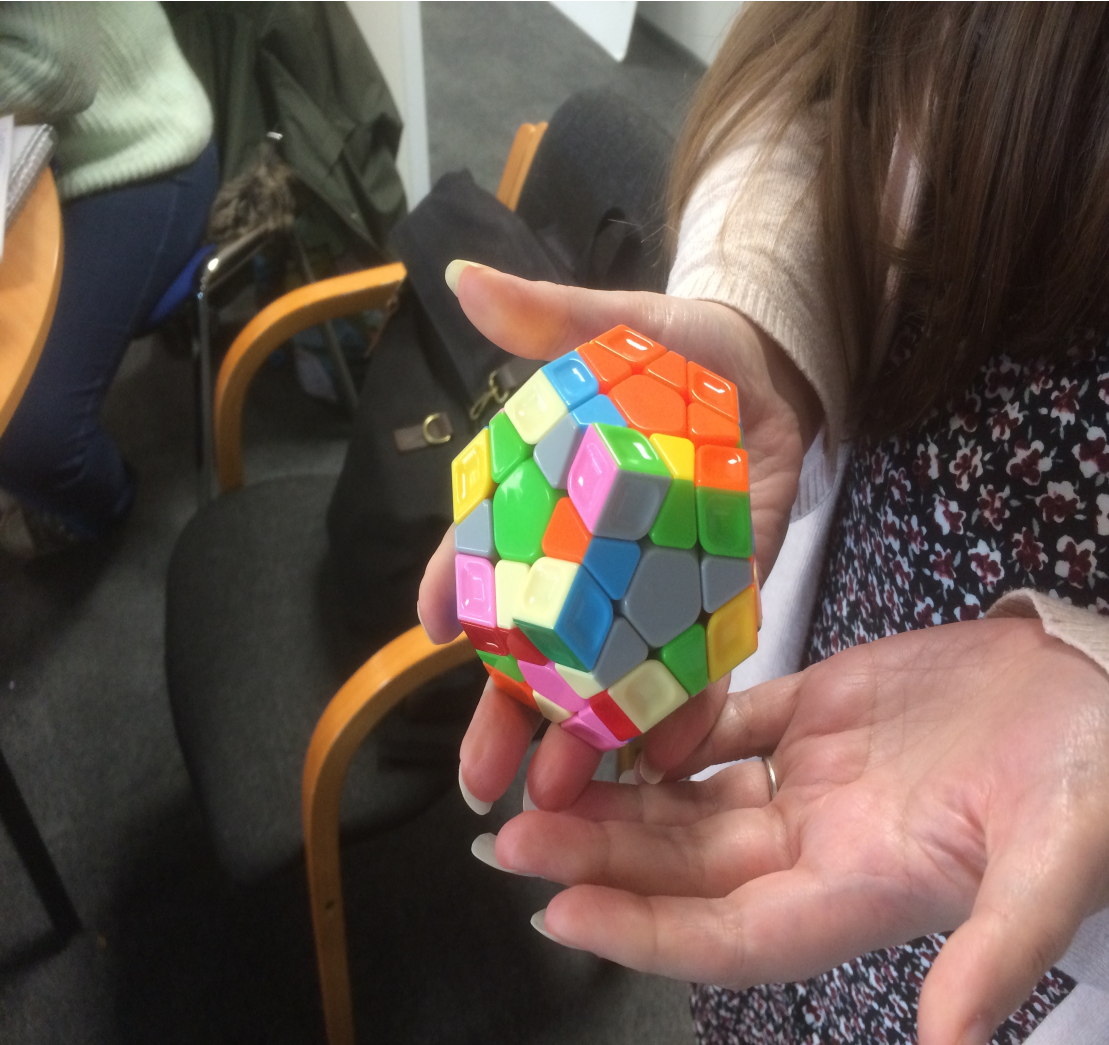
Inclusive Community Builder- ***icandance***

Lived experience of disability

Researcher



Mark's Story



Nicola's story

Explorer

Carer

Community Arts Practitioner

Researcher





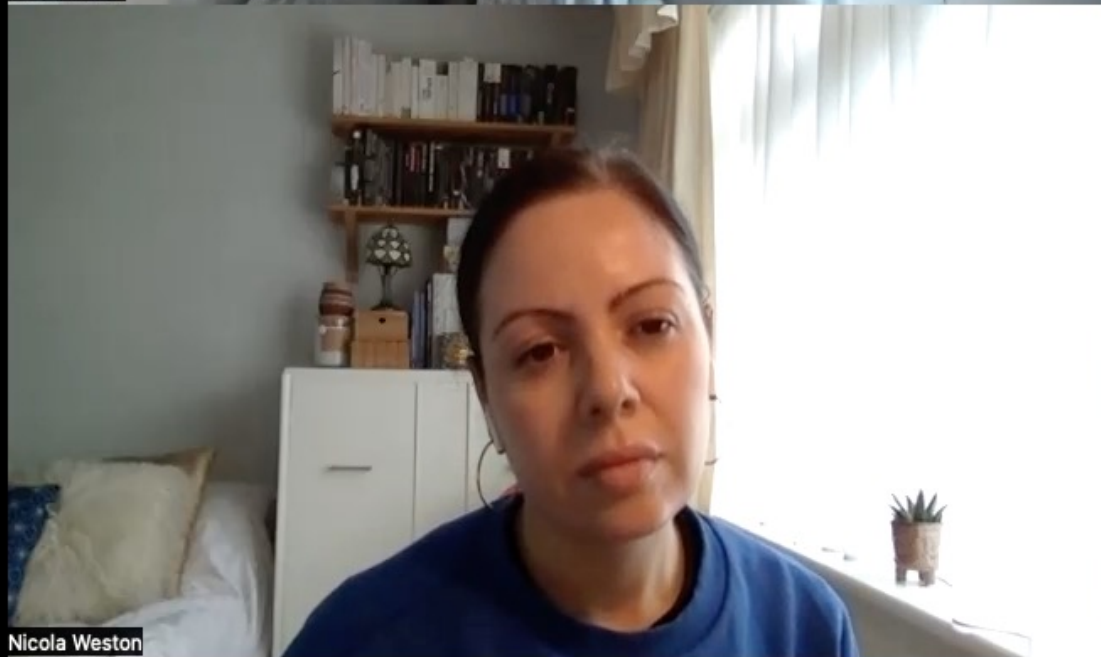
We listened together and gave ourselves space for spontaneous discussion.



Juliet Diener



Caroline Frizell (she/her)



Nicola Weston



marktaylor

We shared dreams and created poetic writing to understand the textures of those meeting places between the stories of the research participants and our own stories.





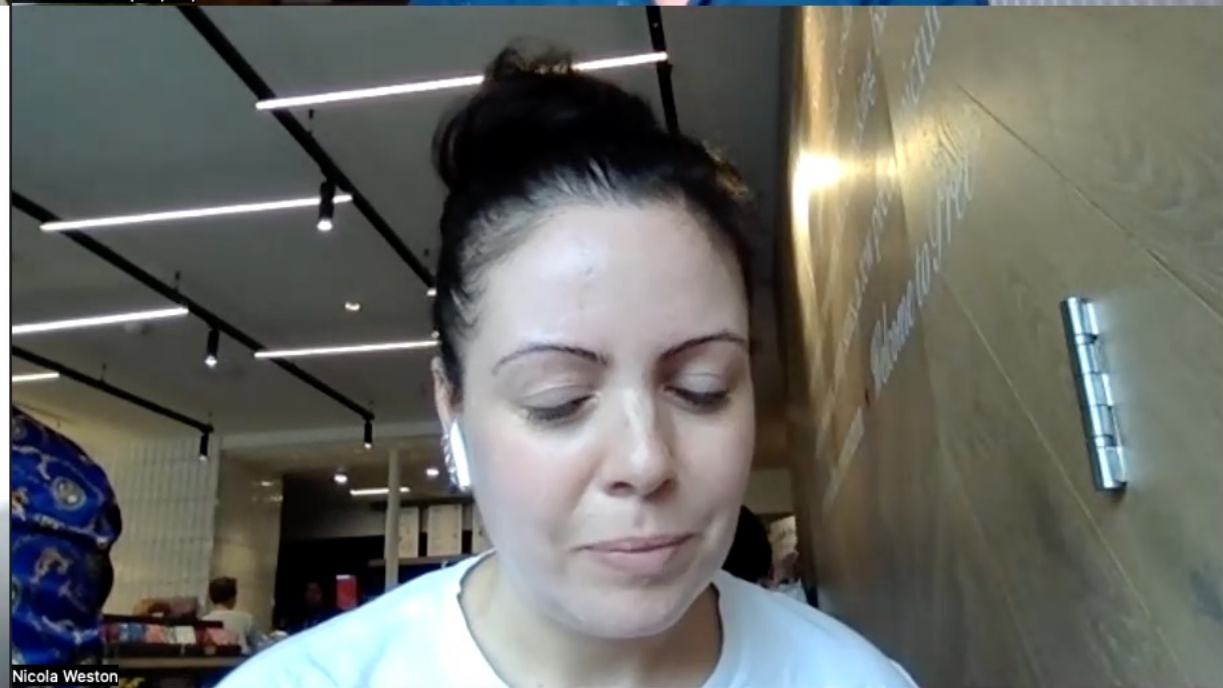
marktaylor



Caroline Frizell (she/her)



Juliet Diener



Nicola Weston

*Bringing the researcher into the room;
IPA through new materialist entanglements as personal stories of the research
team meet the data from 26 interviews with parents of learning-disabled
children and young people.*

How does this presentation land with you?

Spend a minute doodling, sketching, dreaming or writing to express
how you have become entangled in these ideas.