

# homogeneity versus heterogeneity

this time it's personal.....



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it's not *what* you know...no...er...hang on, actually it is.... it's all about epistemology

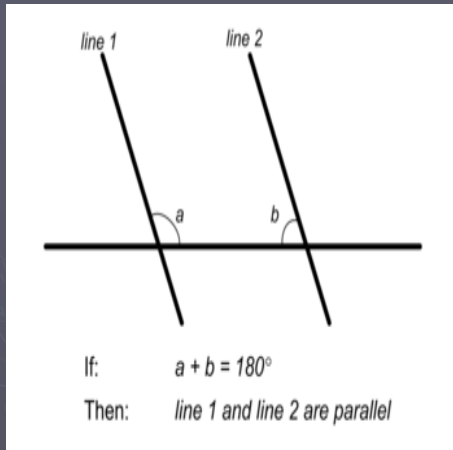
- ▶ 'Differences between what people share as knowledge..... mark the differences between social groups. Knowledge is both part of what joins people in groups and what divides groups; it is a dimension of human life that involves agreement and disagreement, debate and negotiation' (Dant, 1991:1).

Dant, T.(1991) *Knowledge, Ideology and Discourse* Routledge London



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## euclid's parallel postulate



- ▶ discuss in relation to participatory research where line 1 is represented by 'academia' and line 2 by 'service users'



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## user involvement

- ▶ lay
- ▶ relatively powerless
- ▶ dependent
- ▶ co-author-ity
- ▶ etc
- ▶ expert
- ▶ relatively powerful
- ▶ independent
- ▶ author-ity
- ▶ etc

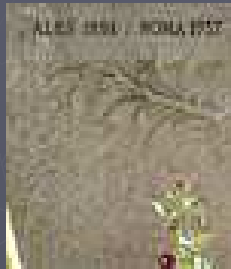
there is a destiny that shapes our ends rough hew them how we will



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# hegemony



- ▶ by which one group controls another
- ▶ by appearing to agree with their ideas
- ▶ by which the margins are made mainstream

## Participatory Research Methodology

- ▶ This new paradigm research must:
- ▶ illuminate the lived experiences of progressive social groups
- ▶ change the social relations of research 'so that both researcher and researched become changers and changed' (Lather, 1986)
- ▶ the methodology of research must also change and be built upon trust and respect and build in participation and reciprocity (Oliver, 1992; Barnes, 2003)

## Participatory Research Methodology

- ▶ Increasingly PRM may not always be with progressive social groups
- ▶ Aims of the research project could be to support people to develop new skills in research methods/process or evaluation
- ▶ Such new skills could be accredited via independent study skills modules at the University

## Healthy Living Barnsley

- ▶ A 2 million pound project, 8 different projects funded by a public health programme
- ▶ A Healthy Living Centre (described in a Circular, NHS Executive, 1999)
- ▶ Lottery funded – requires independent evaluation
- ▶ The evaluation requires methods demonstrating participation with the local community/projects

## HLB - The Process

- ▶ We set out to recruit 8 co-researchers who would undertake training, participate in the questionnaire design, pilot and complete at least 6 interviews
- ▶ Six co-researchers were finally recruited, two of whom were on incapacity benefit, one was unemployed, two were students and one was looking to change her job. We offered training, support and mentorship and a fee of £12.50 for each interview undertaken. Ninety seven interviews were undertaken, 95 of which were included for data analysis.
- ▶ A copy of the final report is available from [j.aylott@shu.ac.uk](mailto:j.aylott@shu.ac.uk)

## Co-researchers and the University

- ▶ One third of the people recruited were on incapacity benefit (disabled) looking to eventually obtain employment
- ▶ This presentation will focus on the relationship between the University and its recruitment of disabled people as co-researchers
- ▶ We hope to stimulate discussion about the ethics of this relationship and the need for a formalised HR strategy to enable disabled individuals to obtain contracted employment with the University

# Kevin Phillips

[www.angelfire.com/amiga/aut/](http://www.angelfire.com/amiga/aut/)



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## About Me

- ▶ Diagnosis of Asperger syndrome
- ▶ What is Asperger syndrome?
  - Communication
  - Interaction
  - Sensory issues – hypo and hyper sensitivity
  - Information processing
  - Anxiety in new environments
  - Special Interest



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## employment history

### Jobs I have had

Delivering the Independent Newspaper (Left after eight months).  
Check out/Till Operator (Fired).  
Glass Collector (Left after two years).  
Factory worker (left after three weeks).  
Data Input Clerk (Three months - temporary job, came to an end).  
Warehouse worker (Fired after three weeks) - They went bankrupt the week after I was diagnosed to my immense satisfaction :).  
Building Site Labourer.  
Data Input Clerk - Barclays Bank (They fired me after two weeks)



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## Sheffield Hallam University

- ▶ Involved for 2.5 years
- ▶ Involved in a service user group Feb-June 2005; taught students on social work/health professional programmes; research participant; assessing and marking student work; Cert in Community Volunteering 2006; Researching Together Feb – April 2007; Contribute to development and planning meetings



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## Healthy Living Barnsley

- ▶ Dec 2006 – meetings to review the questionnaire and feedback on the language and the way questions are phrased to the interviewee
- ▶ Jan 2007 – carried out interviews with mothers who were attending a playgroup



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## What did I get out of it?

- ▶ Experience of contributing to the design and carrying out interviews
- ▶ Met other co-researchers
- ▶ Helped to get further along with becoming a researcher



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## The Future?

- ▶ To gain employment – that is suitable to me otherwise I will go back to the way I were 8 or 9 years ago – in and out of jobs all the time
- ▶ Where? The University or similar establishment



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