**A hermeneutic phenomenological study of stroke survivors’ and healthcare practitioners’ lived experience of the acute stroke unit**

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**Abstract**

This presentation draws on the findings of a hermeneutic phenomenological study into the lived through experience of the acute stroke unit from two meaningful horizonal perspectives; that of stroke survivors and healthcare practitioners. This presentation will be structured around maps that were developed as part of the hermeneutic process. These maps were a device that helped me open up and produce a space, and capture the complexity, spatiality, and holistic understanding being developed. They also embodied my involvement, position and place within them, as I drew, plotted, re-thought, interrogated and re-designed. I will be using them to share how the acute stroke unit was meaningfully lived through from the perspective of stroke survivors and healthcare practitioners, and how they also offered an avenue towards more holistic understanding of what was meaningful across the gestalt from a human lifeworld perspective.

**Biography**

I am a senior lecturer in physiotherapy who has worked at the School of Health Sciences at the University of Brighton since 2002. I have been interested in qualitative research since qualifying in 1995; completing my own MSc project and supervising and supporting a number of students to undertake research in the field of neurological rehabilitation. I have recently successfully completed my doctoral research titled: The acute stroke unit as transitional space: the lived experience of stroke survivors and healthcare practitioners. Through this study I have become increasingly drawn towards the lifeworld and existential perspective of meaningful experience, as we look to understand ourselves, another, and human living.