



Playing the Game

WHY DON'T SOME STUDENTS
ENGAGE, AND WHAT CAN
PRACTITIONERS DO ABOUT IT?

DR JO ELLARD


ILLUSIOM

PROVOCATION



Me: Why don't they engage with these amazing employability opportunities?



Colleague: They are just plain LAZY!

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



How does **socioeconomic status** influence **lived experience** of graduate transition to achieving career aspirations?

How do **higher education** and **employer practices** influence graduate development and employment?

What are the **factors** surrounding **successful acquisition of career** aspirations of sport coaching graduates?

METHODOLOGY

- **Narrative interviews** (NI) held with six recent graduates with lower resources on a BA Sport Development and Coaching, who were interviewed twice over two years post-undergraduate graduation.
- Narrative Interviews provide power to the participant and the ability to observe the habitus (dispositions), relationality and engagement in self-career management over time.
- Insider research - existing relationship with participants
- **Artefacts:** Life Trajectory helps to explicate a tacit understanding of lived experience and significant experience over time. Using pictures, names and dates.
- Target Sociograms aid the narration of network stories, insight into social capital, resources and relational influence on PPD over time.

FINDINGS



The findings reveal how individual habitus, resources and their alignment with possible self can enable or constrain the trajectories of lower-resourced students.



The greater the clarity of who they would like to become, characterised as '*comparisons in which the individual's own thoughts, feelings, characteristics, and behaviours have been contrasted to those of salient others*' (Markus and Nurius, 1986, p.954) the more likely they are to emotionally commit to the game, illustrated by the transformation or inertia of an individuals' dispositions.



The strength of illusio is a core characteristic which can enable or inhibit habitus rupture depending on the strength of Illusio.

PATTERNS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Those who stay 'comfortable'
- Those who engage 'to a degree'
- Those who are 'all in'



PLAYING THE GAME

THE FINAL WHISTLE

- Lower resources shape horizons of possibility
- Habitus shapes what feels attainable and legitimate
- Weaker attachment to possible selves reduces engagement
- Structural barriers constrain rupture
- Reflexivity can catalyse transformation

POST-MATCH OBSERVATIONS



INSIDER RESEARCH
PROVIDES DEEPER INSIGHT



UNFORESEEN ETHICAL
CHALLENGES



THE POTENTIAL OF
NARRATIVE RESEARCH

CONNECT



Dr Jo Ellard
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-jo-ellard/>



admin@illusiom.com