

Cooperation dynamics in participatory knowledge production - a critical reflection.

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Cooperation processes as a key issue of participatory knowledge production, will be addressed in depth and critically reflected in relation to an ongoing research project on quality in social work practice, based on the constructivist assumption that what we call "good quality" can only be the result of a complex negotiation process between all actors involved. The research takes place in an area where participatory social work research involving both professionals and users is at its first steps and the whole research process is characterized by a consistent number of feedback-meetings between users, carers, professionals, managers and academic researchers, in order to discuss both the research process and the preliminary findings. These meetings are the very spaces where participatory interpretation of the collected data takes place and where potential conflicts on what can be considered the "right" interpretation may occur. This presentation focus particularly on the issues of power (imbalance) and of communication (difficulties) which may emerge in these feedback-meetings, showing however that it is precisely in this spaces where, through negotiating processes, participatory knowledge production takes place.

Keywords: participatory knowledge production; negotiated quality; critical reflection