

Experts by Experience in Forensic Psychiatry

Katja Lumén // MSc, PhD Student, University of Eastern Finland; Head Nurse, Niuvanniemi Hospital, Niuvankuja 65, 70240 Kuopio, Finland
Lauri Kuosmanen // PhD, Docent, Department of Nursing Science, University of Eastern Finland, Yliopistonranta 1 C, 70210 Kuopio, Finland
Olavi Louheranta // PhD, MTh, Counsellor/ Supervisor Niuvanniemi Hospital, Niuvankuja 65, 70240 Kuopio, Finland

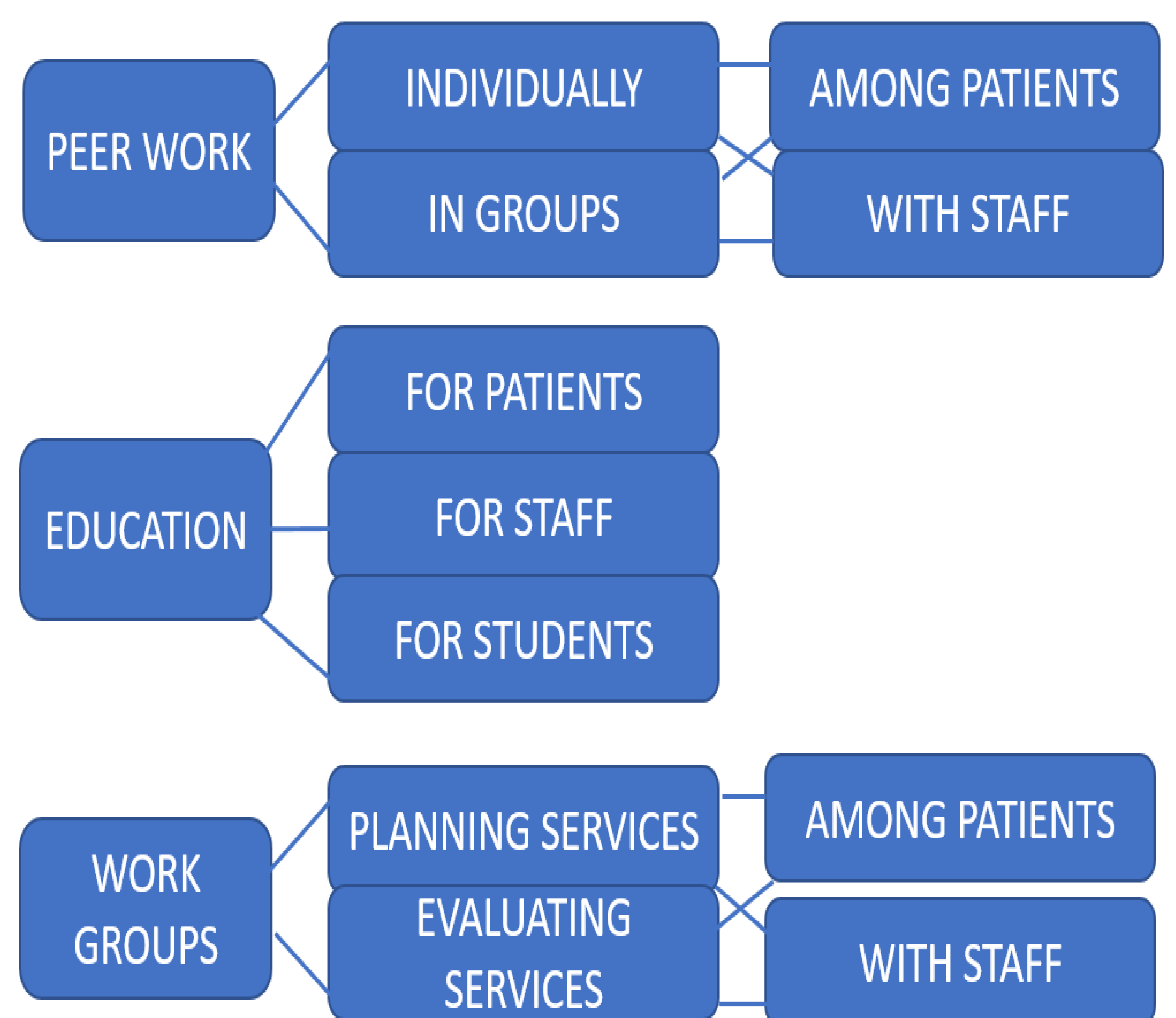
Background

Including patients in planning, organizing and evaluating psychiatric services and treatment is highly recommended. Experts by experience are people appointed to various tasks in health care organizations due to their lived experience of a mental health disorder. They can provide us with valuable service user perspectives. This doctoral thesis aims at gathering and presenting descriptions and understanding of expert-by-experience work in forensic psychiatry units across Finland. This type of research is still non-existent. Ideally, the findings of this study could lead to the development of new recommendations and good practices. An aim is also to promote quality of care through inclusion of experts by experience in forensic psychiatry. There is need for a definition of different possibilities for patient participation and deepened understanding of recovery and agency in this context.

Recovery is subjective development towards a fulfilling life and includes an interactional social aspect. For patients in forensic psychiatry, integration into society is connected to responsibility and aims for a future wherein they are capable of contributing as citizens. As perceptions of self develop, connectedness and empowerment are associated with agency. After having lost freedom in an institution, for these patients, participation in the community provides a platform for finding personal purpose. The elements of recovery and agency are interconnected.

Methods

After conducting a concept analysis on the concepts: “recovery” and “agency”, we will proceed to face-to-face interviews with both experts by experience and professionals working with them. The goal is to define: the expert-by-experience narratives of agency and recovery and the state of expert-by-experience work in the field of forensic psychiatry summarizing these in the final thesis. Interviews will be conducted in all forensic units in Finland.



Expert-by-experience work in Finnish forensic psychiatry

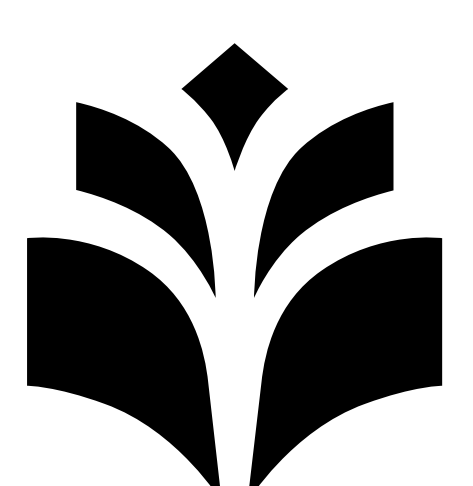
Results

Articles included in the thesis:

- A Concept Analysis of Recovery and Agency in Forensic Psychiatry
- Recovery Narratives of Experts by Experience in Forensic Psychiatry
- Narratives of Agency in Forensic Psychiatry
- Experts by Experience in Forensic Psychiatry

CONTACT INFORMATION

Katja Lumén
lumen@student.uef.fi
+358 40 852 0603



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND