
Exploring the parental experiences of raising autistic adolescents in a UK military family: The emerging role for occupational therapists.

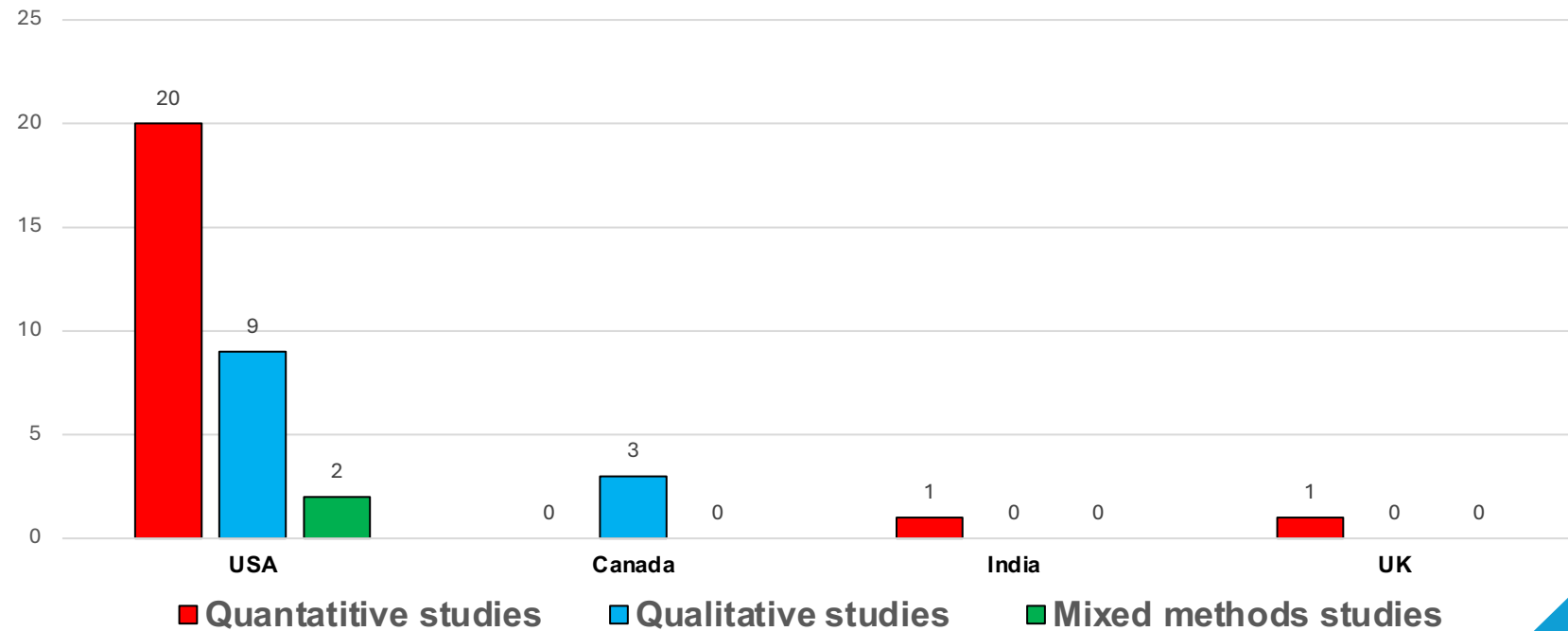
Philippa White OT.

University of Worcester.





Limited international research literature



Research design and methodology

Interpretative and social constructivism philosophical approach

Qualitative study using narrative inquiry

Non serving military spouses with caregiving responsibility for autistic adolescent aged 13 to 25 years.

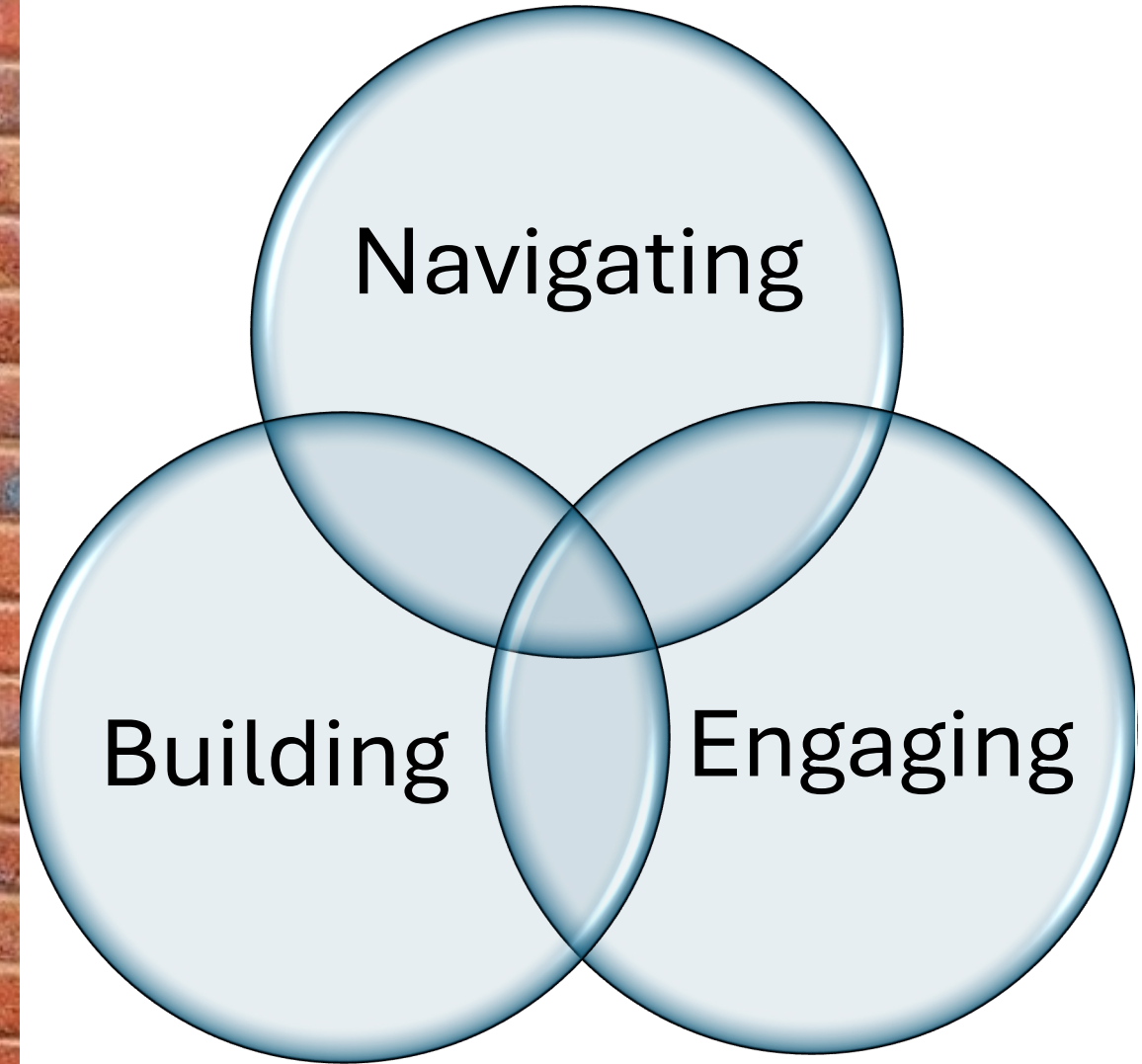
Semi-structured interviews using Zoom – audio online interview

Interviewed 18 participants twice, interviews six months apart

Interviews transcribed and participants anonymised

Thematic analysis of data

Themes



***Just as you feel like you
are getting somewhere, you move
again, so because it's a completely
different county, you have to start
from scratch...it is not easy.***

NAVIGATING HEALTHCARE

You get a bit of leeway and bit of support there, ...you can't get that if you are moving every five minutes...

ENGAGING SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

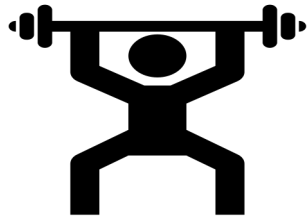
I think I just try my best, but I am always self-doubting if I've done enough ...could I have done that differently?... and then I realise I am on my own and I've got no one... it's been tough, really really tough.

BUILDING SKILLS

Emerging role for occupational therapists



Education and knowledge can impact outcomes.



Strategies aimed at improving anticipation of change and restoration of routines can improve resilience



References.

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Thank you for listening.

Philippa White philippa@pfwot.co.uk.