

Supervisible

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**Offender Supervision
in Europe**
COST Action IS1106



Background

- The project aims to help to make supervision more (socially, culturally and politically) visible by seeking representations of it as a lived experience.

What is the research about?

The study is about how you see supervision. Often people don't understand what supervision is and we want to give you a chance to tell us how you see it and feel about it, through photos and discussion. This study is part of the project called the COST Action on Offender Supervision in Europe and is being conducted by members of its group on 'Experiencing Supervision'. One of our aims is to give a voice to people being supervised across Europe.

England	Germany	Scotland
10 women accessed via Women's Centre	10 men, 1 woman, 2 male social workers, accessed via open prison, halfway house, advice centre	7 men, 3 women, 1 male social worker, accessed via Twitter (3) and local CJSW service (7)
Diverse forms of supervision, past and/or present	Diverse forms of supervision, past and/or present	Diverse forms of supervision, past and/or present
Artist encouraged playfulness and creativity: no rules	Same artist and approach as in England	Artist provided briefing on basics of composition and showed examples
Preparatory meeting > disposable cameras > development > focus groups 2 weeks later	One day workshop: Briefing > Digital cameras > Lunch > Focus Groups	One day workshop: Briefing > Disposable cameras > Lunch while photos developed > Focus Groups

Analytical issues

- Began in the data collection (with the discussions)
 - co-creation of meanings
- Photos as data; photos as visual stimulus for spoken data
- Which photos? Whose photos?
- Which themes?
 - By meaning or by literal object?
- Not all sites transcribed yet...
- Already see a possible need for a second stage engagement/analysis (e.g. via public exhibition... different form of data)



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Constraint





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Waste





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Growth



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Judgment



England	Germany	Scotland
Fear and anger Broken-ness	Hopelessness Depression	
Time	Waiting and lost time	Time
Surveillance and control: no escape	Limited freedom Control and permanent presence Barriers	Constraints Barriers
Rubbish	Rubbish and shit	Waste
	Trust and mistrust	
Nature/Growth/Hope	Regeneration, hope and new life Searching and aspiration	Nature/Growth/Journeys
Help and support	Help and support	Help and support
Judgment and representations	Stigmatisation and social decline Reduced citizenship and access to law Infantiilisation	Criminalisation and labelling
Health and Wellbeing	Trauma	Addictions

Discussion

- Supervision is represented as...
 - Constraint, waste, judgment and growth
 - Tensions: Constraining (mostly) and (sometimes) supportive
 - The tension is not just between these aspects; it is within them
 - Constraint + time (-perceived need or justification) = painful suspension... which gives has a pervasive, immanent quality

Legitimacy and compliance

- The systemic legitimacy of supervision itself (linked to responsibility, proportionality and perceived need)
- The legitimacy of supervisory relationships
 - Labelling/dehumanisation or respect/dignity
 - Managing waste or supporting growth?
- Compliance will be hard when supervision is painful; and it's painful even when it is good!