Researching Therapy Talk: 
Qualitative methods for analysing Counselling and Psychotherapy transcripts

Friday 22 May 2015, 09:30-16:45
The Open University in London, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town, London, NW1 8NP

Programme

09:00 - 09:30  Arrival, refreshments, coffee, tea

09:30 - 10:30  Why are therapy transcripts important for therapy research?
Naomi Moller & Andreas Vossler (both The Open University)

10:30 - 10:45  Coffee break

10:45 – 12:15  What can Conversation Analysis offer psychotherapy?
Professor Charles Antaki, Loughborough University

12:15 - 13:15  Lunch break

Dr. Georgia Lepper

14:45 - 15:00  Coffee break

15:00 - 16:30  Analysing therapy transcripts using Thematic Analysis
Associate Professor Victoria Clarke & Rachel Wilcox, UWE Bristol

16:30 – 16:45  Conclusions and next steps
Andreas Vossler & Naomi Moller (both The Open University)
Abstracts

What can Conversation Analysis offer psychotherapy?
Professor Charles Antaki, Loughborough University

Abstract
Conversation Analysis is the study of how people do things with talk, so it seems a natural ally of psychotherapy. Its aims are different of course - it's a research method, indifferent to the objectives of the people it studies - but it promises to identify the exact way they achieve them. How does a therapist probe delicate matters? How do they offer interpretations? What counts as a client's resistance, and how does the therapist deal with it? I'll give a capsule account of CA as a method, and then illustrate its use in psychotherapy with a set of worked examples.

Charles Antaki is Professor of Language and Social Psychology, and a member of the Discourse and Rhetoric Group (DARG) at Loughborough University, UK. Among his recent publications is the edited volume Applied Conversation Analysis (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

Is it psychosomatic? A close look at a clinical challenge using Applied Pragmatics
Dr. Georgia Lepper

Abstract
In this workshop we'll examine a clinical event which occurred over several sessions of a brief, 8 session therapy. Using Applied Pragmatics, we will explore the turn by turn interaction as client and therapist contest meaning around the question, 'Is it psychosomatic?' Can close examination of clinical interaction help us as clinicians to hear better, respond better and resolve clinical problems?

Georgia Lepper is clinician/researcher who has used Conversation Analysis to shed light on clinical interaction in many publications, and in teaching and supervision. Formerly Senior Lecturer in Psychotherapy at the University of Kent, currently she supervises clinical doctorate candidates for the University of Exeter.

Analysing therapy transcripts using thematic analysis
Associate Professor Victoria Clarke & Rachel Wilcox

Abstract
In this session, we'll introduce the Braun and Clarke approach to thematic analysis, highlighting in particular its flexibility, and demonstrate how it can be used to analyse changes processes in psychotherapy transcripts using the example of a therapeutic intervention for bereaved families.

Victoria Clarke is an Associate Professor at the University of the West of England, Bristol. She is a qualitative and critical psychologist, with research interests in sexuality and gender, principally in relation to family and relationships, and appearance and embodiment, and qualitative methods. She has published three prize winning books, including, mostly recently, Successful Qualitative Research (SQR) (Sage). With her SQR co-author, Virginia Braun, she has also published a landmark paper on thematic analysis - Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology (2006) - which has become the most widely cited resource on thematic analysis. The 'in Psychology' part of the title has largely been disregarded and Braun and Clarke's approach to thematic analysis has become one of the most widely used qualitative analytic approaches in the social and health sciences. She is currently co-editing a book on innovative methods for qualitative data collection with Virginia Braun and Debra Gray (for Cambridge University Press), and plans for a thematic analysis book are underway.

Rachel Wilcox is completing a Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Her doctoral research explores change processes in a therapeutic intervention for bereaved families using the theoretical lens of attachment theory. Her research is supervised by Victoria Clarke and Naomi Moller.