Reviewer’s report

Title: Paramedics, poetry and film: health policy and systems research at the intersection of theory, art and practice

Version: 1 Date: 03 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Susan Nancarrow

Reviewer's report:

The authors have taken on board several of the comments and responded to all of the feedback. This is a difficult article to review because it is so unique and there are no clear frames of reference for this type of review. As the authors point out, it was submitted as an editorial, however HRH does not have guidelines for editorial submissions. Generally an editorial should respond to topical issues; present a concise synthesis of a topic which does not warrant a full review; and present a clear argument.

Because this is such an unusual, and non-commissioned, editorial it really needs to make its points clearly and strongly. While the text highlights the importance of art in illustrating important perspectives in a way that could otherwise lose impact through less expressive interfaces, I am still not convinced that the material is able to move the readers' experience beyond anecdote to a wider sense of knowledge or understanding. This is partly because the focus is largely on the mode of dissemination, rather than the experience of the receiver. The new text highlights ways that the videos were disseminated, and while it suggests that arts based methods can increase collaboration between participants and policy makers, there is no 'bridge' to move this activity forward. Further translation is required by the authors to move the reader and viewer into a position to either be able to respond to the material provided in a way that enables them to either how to use the same approach to inform research / policy or practice; or actually address the issues through research / policy / practice. While the authors suggest that this is a piece to inform discussion, more context, theory and signposting is needed to enable this work to provoke a valuable discussion.

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