

Communities for Children Kingston, Loganlea Waterford West

Local Evaluator

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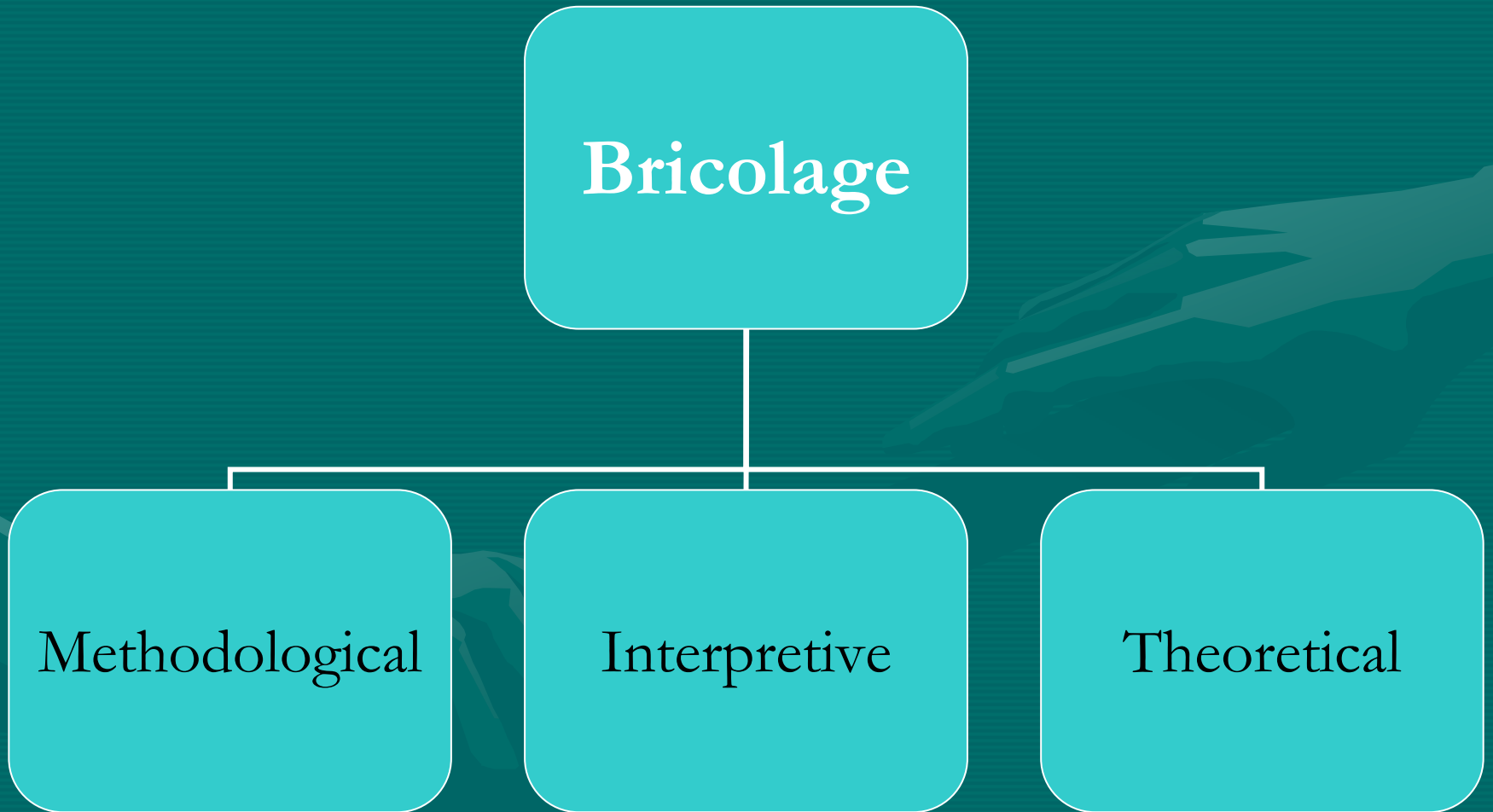
Overview

- Outcome
- Methodology and focus
- Collaboration with FP on design
- FP/CP Outcomes/legacy
- Design – data management tools/data collection
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Report and feedback
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Intentions of evaluation

Outcomes

- To complement the national evaluation
- To inform the work from multiple perspectives
- To develop a complementary theoretical framework
- To deliver the national evaluation outcomes
- To decide upon and deliver our own outcomes

Methodology and focus



Bricolage

pieced together set of representations that are fitted to the specifics of a complex situation where the choice of research practices depends on the questions that are asked, and the questions depend on their context (Denzin & Lincoln 2003).

Bricolage cont'd

- Levi-Strauss's (1966:17) notion is of the bricoleur as a 'Jack of all trades', who creates patchwork using different tools, methods and techniques that are at hand.
- Deals with the complexity of research and allows the researcher to work within and against (Lather, 1996) competing or overlapping perspectives and philosophies (Stewart, 2001).
- Pieces of this puzzle will not necessarily fit together neatly.
- Assists with the management of disparate data that inform the process of explanation in this case.
- Variety of perspectives and approaches (Stewart, 2001:5).
- Method that does not offer 'any single model or foolproof approach to discovering the "correct" explanation of problems and differences...' (Riches & Dawson, 2002:210).

Bricolage cont'd

- Allows for an emergent construction
- Assists with the management of complex data
- Multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives
- Adds rigour, breadth, complexity, depth
- Poststructuralist theory – questioning taken-for-granted understandings and assumptions
- Epistemological coherence

Bricolage

Quantitative
Surveys

Mini Case
Studies

Consortium
Meetings/
Grid Access

Interpretive

Bricolage

Theoretical

RV
Semi Structured
Interviews

RV
Circles of
Change

RV
Consultation
with Children

Collaboration with FP on design

- Data manager
 - Internal evaluator
 - External evaluator
 - Co-operation
 - Partnership
 - A variety of strategies and data collection tools
- Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes

FP/CP Outcomes/legacy

- To provide a core common understanding or agreed position of child development and of how best to support such development in children 0-5 years
- To value and celebrate children, their individuality, efforts and achievements
- To acknowledge the changing context of children and families in Australia today
- To value and support the adults who live and work with children
- To provide opportunities for reflection
- To inform and develop effective practice

FP/CP Outcomes/legacy

- To acknowledge that there are no easy answers
- To provide high quality and contemporary information about the development and learning of young children to individuals in disadvantaged areas and circumstances
- A focus on interdisciplinary/integrated practice with children 0-5 and their families;
- The provision and delivery of quality information relating to strengths based practice with children and families and a wider approach to child development, particularly in relation to socio-cultural/socio-ecological theories;
- The development of an agreed framework for practice with children 0-5 and their families.

Design – data management tools/data collection/Engaging with stakeholders

The Kaleidoscope Approach/Bricolage

- Action Learning Sets (Learning Circles – conducted by professionals at Griffith University)
- Integration in Action surveys for practitioners & Early Childhood Services
- Mosaics -Consultation with children
- Mosaics in the community - inclusive practice ensuring access & equity in all of the community
- Existing information & Statistics

Design – data management tools/data collection

- Photographs
- Videos
- DVDs
- Film
- Narrative
- Interviews
- Evaluation

Report and feedback

Via Committee of Management
Yearly Report

A faint, semi-transparent image of two hands shaking is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The hands are rendered in a light teal color, matching the background, and are positioned as if in a firm handshake.

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Multiple perspectives
- Largely unconstrained by taken for granted understandings
- Multiple data approaches/techniques can be used
- Research can evolve and be interactive
- Permissive – enhances analysis
- Variety

Weaknesses

- Internal and external model requires sound data management
- Communication issues
- Into the process – correct questions

Intentions of evaluation

- To highlight the advantages of the integrated model used
- To look for alignments in the knowledge bases and to demonstrate coherence
- To highlight the effectiveness of trans-disciplinary practice and its relationship to sustainability
- A difficult task