

EHPS Conference Report: Reflections on the different kinds of presentation format

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It was a real honour to be awarded for the 2019 EHPS Conference grant, which allowed me to participate in this appealing 33rd conference as I was in an uneasy period between two post-doctoral positions. It was particularly beneficial for my early career to be present in such a reputed international conference. Moreover, I participated in EHPS conference 2017 in Padova, and in EHPS conference 2018 in Galway as I was a PhD student, and both conferences were strongly instructive and very motivating for a young researcher like me.

I had the chance to present both an oral and a poster presentation during the conference. I had also the occasion to participate in the organization of a symposium, and to attend a workshop during the pre-conference. These several experiences led me to develop some reflections about the different kinds of format that can be used to introduce a piece of work to a broad audience.

1. Workshop

I attended the Workshop entitled *“Using the Person-Based Approach to develop effective and engaging behaviour change interventions”* led by Dr Kate Morton, Dr Rosie Essery, Dr Katy Sivyler, and Dr Kate Greenwell (University of Southampton). This workshop was particularly of interest for me as I have been working on cancer screening participation issues over the course of my PHD and

during my previous and current post-doctoral positions. I indeed think that screening participation raises concerns that could be addressed with a Person-Based Approach, for example, by questioning the targeted population before implementing an intervention aiming at improving screening rates.

The Person-Based Approach is a way of constructing an intervention. This approach “highlights the focus on understanding and accommodating the perspectives of the people who will use the intervention” (Yardley et al, 2015). By recommending the conduction of both an initial literature scoping and a qualitative study with the targeted population before formulating the guiding principles, the Person-Based Approach allows an in-depth understanding of user needs for a better acceptability and effectiveness of an intervention. The workshop facilitators used real-life case studies across diverse health conditions (hypertension, antibiotic resistance, cognitive impairment, eczema, and weight loss) to create interactive activities.

I particularly appreciated the workshop format as it enables interactive, practical and participative discussions. Thanks to the explanations and exercises we have done during the workshop, I feel more comfortable with the idea of applying this approach to my own work.

2. Symposium

I took part in the organization of a symposium as a co-convenor, untitled *“Using stakeholder engagement and person-based approaches in health*

psychology research: the benefits and challenges”, chaired by Dr Jenny Mc Sharry (NUI Galway, Ireland). This symposium aimed at exploring the different ways of involving stakeholders in research. This symposium gave an overview of work conducted in France with a community-based approach for studying the support of autonomy for people living with HIV in French Guyana (Anne Sophie Petit, University Lyon 2, France), in Canada within a new model of patient engagement in services improvement (Dr Julie Haesebaert, University Lyon 1, France), and in UK with the Person-Based Approach (Dr Rosie Essery, Dr Katy Sivyer, Dr Kate Morton, University of Southampton).

The symposium format has the advantage of gathering diverse work from different places with a key concept in common. The presence of a discussant, Prof Molly Byrne, which summarized common themes and issues, facilitated the discussion with the audience. Thanks to my experienced colleagues involved in this symposium, I had the occasion to experience a way of bringing together several researchers from various countries.

3. Oral presentation

I had the chance to present an oral communication during the session *“Avoiding, detecting and managing illness”* chaired by Prof Arie Dijkstra. This presentation, entitled *“Exploring participation in colorectal cancer screening: lessons from a mixed-methods research”* dealt with my PhD work about colorectal cancer screening participation.

Participating in this session was an opportunity for me to discover new work on health prevention led by researchers across the world. In this session, some studies echoed to my own work by addressing similar topics (e.g. mammography participation in the presentation of Dr Celia Naivar Sen) or the use of similar theoretical frameworks (e.g. Theory of

Planned Behaviour, Ajzen, 1994). These common features led to very interesting discussions with the audience.

The oral presentation format is a classic format that requires good oral skills. This format necessitates also to be able to clearly state the context of a study in a limited time (in a typical oral session, there is no obvious common thread as in a symposium). I found this experience challenging and very attractive.

4. Poster presentation

Finally, I presented a poster about *“Determinants of screening participation of disadvantaged populations in France: a qualitative study.”* during the session *“Patient education and decision-making”* chaired by Prof Madelynne Arden.

Presenting a whole research in 3-4 minutes is a great exercise that mobilizes synthesis skills. But contrary to an oral communication, the presence of a small audience provides with more interpersonal discussions.

I found the poster presentation format particularly interesting because of the presence of the jury. The possibility of winning a poster price makes the process exciting. I also particularly appreciated the presence of other presenters of my session, who raised interesting questions and links between our different research.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the interest of participating in EHPS conferences that offers each year diverse sessions with broad topics and various formats. My participation in the EHPS 2019 Conference was very instructive as I was able to experience all the different presentation formats that I will undoubtedly meet throughout my future

career. In addition, the conference provides me with a lot of inspiring ideas to apply to my own work on cancer screening participation.

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